

Town of Cornelius Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan 2015– 2025

Adopted by: Town of Cornelius

Board of Commissioners

June 15, 2015





Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025

Acknowledgements

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E Executive Summary

Introduction

In August 2014, the Town of Cornelius Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Department commissioned a consultant to update the Town's 2005 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. The goal of this project was to solicit community input, conduct a facilities needs assessment, and identify and establish recommendations for future development of parks and greenways, as well as recreation, art, and open space in the Town. The Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan will guide the PARC Department in serving the public's recreation needs through 2025.

Analysis of Existing Facilities

The inventory of recreational facilities in the Town of Cornelius was performed by the consultant using information provided by PARC staff. The facilities review included site visits to gain more specific information on elements and characteristics. Park facilities are presented based on ownership and facility type. This analysis does not include a detailed assessment as to the quality and condition of the facilities. However, the PARC Department's Capital Improvement Plan identifies facilities that need or will need to be renovated over the next five years. The PARC Department currently operates and maintains fifteen (15) parks and facilities, including joint-use facilities with two (2) Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

Population of Cornelius

In order to use recreation standards to project the Town's future needs, population trends and projections must be identified for the Town through the planning period (2015-2025). The 2010 Census provided valuable information on changes that occurred in Cornelius. The population of the Town of Cornelius in 2000 was 11,969. The 2010 Census listed the Town's population at 24,866. An updated Town population was provided by the State of North Carolina Office of Budget and Management giving a July 1, 2013, certified population estimate of 27,655. Population growth is expected to continue with a "total build out" estimated to occur in 2025, when the total population of the Town will be approximately 35,000. The estimate is based on projections from the Cornelius Planning Department and their evaluation of potential development.

Public Input

The first phase of public input consisted of gathering public input from community leaders, stakeholders, and residents through several activities. This initial phase was conducted by the University of North Carolina - Charlotte Masters of Public Administration program. These activities included:

- In-person and telephone interviews with key stakeholders
- Two public forums
- A random, statistically valid household survey



The overall community assessment process included an analysis of residents' usage, satisfaction, and preferences for park facilities and stakeholders' insights into the current and future needs of park facilities.

The second phase of public input was gained from two community workshops facilitated by PARC staff and the consultant team. Public input from the workshops included the following:

- Cornelius Elementary Playground – *Make the playground area more like a public park; add a track, benches, other uses*
- Concern about the proposed greenway location at Willow Pond – *Want to be able to provide input on alignment*
- Need some larger natural open areas
- Need “Yield to Pedestrian” signs along walking routes
- Bocce courts at Town Hall property
- Make the Town and commercial areas more walking friendly
- More urban parks in downtown and commercial areas – *How do we require commercial properties to develop park spaces in new and/or existing developments?*
- Incorporate more pickleball – *Incorporate in both tennis courts and stand alone for smaller spaces*
- Add outdoor fitness stations along walks/trails in parks
- Develop a bike-sharing program – *Rent a bicycle in one park location and return it to another that may be along a trail/greenway route*
- Need more benches everywhere
- More community gardens – *Not only for vegetables, but also add cut flower gardens*
- Sculpture garden(s) – *Need one!*
- Formal garden(s) – *Possibly used for weddings, events, etc.*

Recreation and Facility Needs Assessment National Standards

Current parks, recreation facilities, and greenways were inventoried and compared to national, state, and local park and recreation standards. This was done in an effort to identify and assess the ability of these facilities to meet the current and future needs of the Town's residents through 2025.

National and state standards are a useful guide in determining minimum requirements; however, the Town of Cornelius has established its own standards in consideration of the expressed needs of its residents and the demand based on current facility usage.

Goals for Town Facility Standards

The overall goal for the Town is to provide a minimum of 9.75 acres of public Town parks and 0.4 miles of greenway per 1000 town residents. This goal is further expanded to provide these facilities, or direct access to facilities, within one-half mile of every Cornelius resident. Currently the Town is providing 8.80 acres of Town-owned/operated park facilities per 1,000 residents. The goal of 9.75 acres per 1,000 residents is a proposed standard for Town-owned facilities and does not include county, state, or adjacent jurisdiction facilities.



Park Types

National, state, and local park and recreation agencies and departments categorize parks into several types based on use, size, and population served. The Town of Cornelius categorizes parks as mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, specialty parks, linear parks/greenways, regional parks, nature preserves, and state/national parks.

The Town currently has three (3) mini parks, five (5) neighborhood parks, and three (3) community parks. Additional regional and specialty parks provided by Mecklenburg County are Blythe Landing, Jetton Park, and Ramsey Creek Park.

Gap Analysis

After identifying public needs, facility standards, and the unmet needs identified in current plans, a gap analysis was conducted. This process provided insight into the gaps that exist in the Town's park facilities and where to focus resources through 2025. The gap analysis was an essential exercise in providing recommendations for this 2015 Master Plan update.

The gap analysis indicated that the Town currently has a need for an additional three (3) mini parks, five (5) neighborhood parks, and three (3) specialty parks, a projected need of eleven (11) total new park sites by the year 2025. Additionally, there is a need for thirteen (13) miles of new greenway.

Recommendations

The population of Cornelius has grown significantly in the past ten (10) years and will continue to show significant growth for the next decade. Based on current population projections, the Town's population (27,655) will reach 35,000 by 2025. There is certain to be increased demand for quality leisure services and the citizens of Cornelius will expect the Town to be the main provider. Demand for facilities has continued to grow, program participation is now capped in many cases, and rental requests cannot be fulfilled at times.

Currently there is a need for both new facilities and additional park acreage in Town. This need will grow with the population over the next decade. Available land for recreational development in the Cornelius area is very limited and the Town will need to act quickly to acquire property for parks and recreation. Large tracts of property are difficult to assemble due to market demand. Thus, land values are extremely high. More recreation programs will be desired and existing programs will be expected to grow in size with the addition of new park facilities. These demands will create a need for additional staff and increased funds for the PARC Department to adequately meet its mission.

The Town of Cornelius will focus on developing and operating community, specialty, neighborhood, and mini parks, along with greenways. Section 3 – Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment, identifies the existing and future parks needed in the Town. This plan recommends that by the year 2025, Cornelius make provisions for five (5) new neighborhood parks, three (3) new mini parks, three (3) new specialty parks, and over thirteen (13) miles of greenways. General locations of recommended park locations and greenway alignments are shown on the Master Plan maps.



Capital Improvement Program

A capital improvement program for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks and greenways for the planning period was prepared with input from Town staff, the PARC Commission, and public involvement. Proposed costs are indicated in Section 5 of the Plan, and are shown in 2015 dollar values. The capital improvement costs include funds for land acquisition, site preparation, site utilities, access, and parking along with renovation and significant maintenance improvements.

Implementation

The Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan is based upon a review of the community, an analysis of the existing park system, the identification of user needs, the development of recreation standards, and an adherence to stated recommendations. The plan is intended to be “action-oriented” - designed to provide a framework from which the Town and the PARC Department can enhance their parks and recreation system. Instrumental to implementation of the Master Plan is the identification of adequate funding at a time when balancing municipal budgets throughout the United States has become increasingly difficult.

Implementing the Master Plan will result in meeting the future needs for parks and recreation services, as well as preserving open space in the area. The Town of Cornelius needs to continue to establish annual budgets on projected capital improvement costs, staffing needs, operations, and maintenance costs. Additionally, as Cornelius develops strategies for land use, this plan can be used as a guide to identify needs for recreational land. Most importantly, implementing the Master Plan will solidify the quality of life Cornelius citizens demand and secure that legacy for generations to come.



1 Section 1

Analysis of Existing Parks and Greenway Facilities

Introduction

The inventory of recreational facilities in the Town of Cornelius was performed by the consultant using information provided by PARC staff. The facilities review included site visits to gain more specific information on elements and characteristics of individual parks. Park facilities are presented based on ownership and facility type. This analysis does not include a detailed assessment as to the quality and condition of the facilities.

INVENTORY OF TOWN OWNED/OPERATED PUBLIC FACILITIES

Town Hall

Cornelius Town Hall is located on Catawba Avenue on a one-acre parcel of land owned by the Town. There are community rooms for instructional classes, events, public hearings, and advisory commission meetings. The Town Hall property also has an outdoor gathering space that can accommodate large gatherings and assemblies. The outdoor space, along with the Cornelius Veterans Monument at Rotary Plaza urban park, has been host to Veterans and Memorial Day celebrations for several years.

Cornelius Arts Center

The Cornelius Arts Center is located within the Oak Street Mill, home to a cotton mill in the late 1800s. The Town currently leases approximately 6,700 square feet for the Center; however, there are plans to develop and construct a new Town-owned facility in the near future. The Cornelius Arts Center offers a variety of visual arts experiences, including classes, workshops, camps, open studio, gallery exhibits, and birthday parties. The Arts Center has two (2) multi-use art studios featuring oil painting, abstract painting, drawing, printmaking, watercolor classes, and more. The children's studio offers creative preschool, elementary, tween, and teen instruction in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and more. The Center features a complete ceramic studio with nine (9) pottery wheels, three (3) hand-building tables, a glazing station, and two (2) electric kilns.

Bailey Road Middle and JV Washam Elementary School Recreation Centers

Through a unique partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, when school academic or extra-curricular activities are not in session, the Cornelius PARC Department is able to offer programs. Some of these programs include youth sports leagues, drop-in adult gym time, dance lessons, youth orchestra, fitness classes, special events, and rentals to area sports organizations.



Mini Parks



JV Washam Elementary School Field

JV Washam Elementary School Field is a multi-use / football field that is part of a joint use agreement with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.



Walter Henderson Park

Walter Henderson Road Mini Park is approximately 3.0 acres along Walter Henderson Road. Facilities include a playground, play meadow, picnic shelter, and walking trail.



Yacht Club Playground Park

The Town leases a small playground open to the public in The Peninsula development adjacent to the Peninsula Yacht Club. The playground replaced an unsafe playground originally installed by the developer of The Peninsula.



Neighborhood Parks



Legion Park

This 7-acre property is located on Legion Street across from the American Legion Post 86. Facilities include a lighted softball/baseball field (275)', batting cage, restroom/ concession building, picnic shelter, playground area, azalea memorial garden, and walking trail/path.



Smithville Park

This 8.8-acre park includes two (2) lighted baseball fields (225'), one (1) lighted multi-purpose soccer field, batting cage, a restroom building, picnic shelter, and playground.



Torrence Chapel Park

This 15-acre park includes two (2) lighted baseball/softball fields (300' & 200'), batting cage, shelter/restroom building, play area, picnic tables, basketball court, two (2) lighted tennis courts, and walking path/trail.

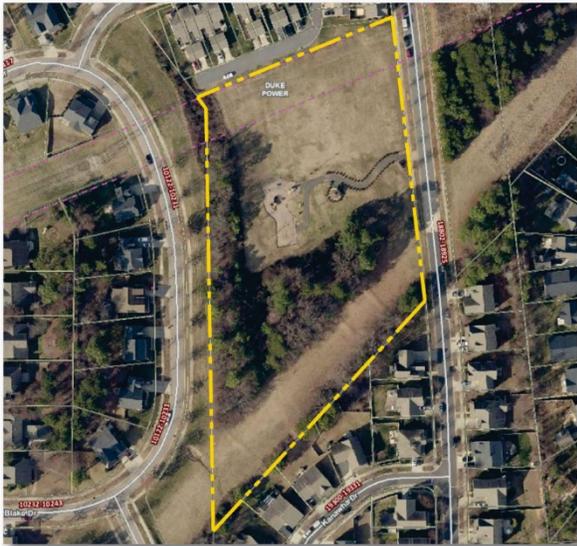


Neighborhood Parks (continued)



Jetton Road Neighborhood Park

This 6.0-acre park is located near the terminus of Jetton Road. The site is currently used as a public open space, and facilities include an un-programmed multi-purpose field, picnic area, and trails.



Glen Oak Green Park

Glen Oak Green Park encompasses over four (4) acres and is located in the Oakhurst community. Facilities include an un-programmed multi-purpose field, small shelter/gazebo picnic area, a playground, and trails.



Community Parks



Bailey Road Park

Bailey Road Park encompasses over 66 acres located off Highway 115 at the corner of Bailey Road. Current park facilities include two (2) lighted baseball / softball fields (275'), batting cage, two (2) lighted multi-purpose synthetic turf soccer fields, two (2) basketball courts, three (3) tennis courts, disc golf course, two (2) picnic shelters, picnic areas, two (2) restroom buildings, two (2) playgrounds, band shell, and walking trails. Also located in the park through a joint use agreement with CMS, is the Town's only dedicated football field and track.



Robbins Park and Nature Preserve

Robbins Park and Nature Preserve is a multiphase, joint venture project, between Westmoreland Lake LLC, Mecklenburg County, and the Town of Cornelius. These three partners collaborated to design a park and residential community, called The Preserve at Robbins Park. Facilities include a multi-purpose field, two (2) tennis courts, picnic shelter, restroom building, playground, picnic areas, disc golf course, and trails. Recent additions include a sand volleyball court, gaga pit, two (2) accessible ponds with fishing piers, and paved trails.



Community Parks (continued)



Westmoreland Athletic Complex

Nicknamed "WAC", this 19-acre complex hosts tournament play for residents as well as participants from outside the area to increase tourism in Cornelius.

Facilities include three (3) lighted youth baseball fields (225', 250', 250'), one (1) lighted high school baseball/adult softball field (325'), two (2) batting cages, restroom building, playground, concession stand, picnic areas, and a large parking area. A recently added trail connects WAC to Robbins Park and Nature Preserve.

INVENTORY OF COUNTY OWNED/OPERATED PUBLIC FACILITIES

Cornelius Elementary School

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools owns the 16.25-acre property. The school site includes a multi-purpose room, two (2) playgrounds, two (2) outdoor basketball courts, and two (2) multi-purpose fields. The Town currently has plans to develop, along with CMS, several new T-ball fields, a multi-purpose field, an additional playground, and walking trails.

Public Library

The County owns and operates a wonderful library along Catawba Avenue across from Cornelius Elementary School. This library is a community treasure with a meeting room and public green space. In 2014 a full-size bronze statue of Mark Twain was installed in front of the library by the Town as part of the Town's Public Art Initiative.

McDowell Creek Greenway

In conjunction with the Town, Mecklenburg County has developed a 1.5-mile section of greenway connecting Alexander Chase Community at Westmoreland Road in Cornelius, to Birkdale Village at Sam Furr Road in Huntersville, with one (1) mile located in Cornelius.

Jetton Park on Lake Norman

This 105-acre special use/lake-access park is located off of Jetton Road. Facilities include a multi-use building, eight (8) lighted tennis courts, picnic areas, shelters, trails, and playground.

Ramsey Creek Lake Access

Located off of Nantz Road, this is a 46-acre special use/lake-access park. Facilities include three (3) large picnic shelters, playground, volleyball court, picnic area, fishing pier, boat launch, and a dog park. A sand beach to provide access to Lake Norman swimming is planned for the near future.



Blythe Landing

This 26-acre special use/lake-access park is located off of NC Highway 73. Facilities include two (2) sand volleyball courts, concession/restroom building, picnic areas, playground, boat slips, and launch area. This park is also home to North Carolina Community Sailing, a non-profit watersports organization partially supported by the Town.

Nearby State Public Facilities

Duke Power State Park

This state park facility is located along thirteen (13) miles of Lake Norman's shoreline. Facilities include 6.2 miles of trails, fishing and swimming areas, two (2) large picnic grounds, thirty-three (33) family campsites, and two (2) large group campsites. This facility is located off of Interstate 77 in Troutman, NC, and is approximately twenty-five (25) miles north of Cornelius.

Boone's Cave State Park

This facility is a state park with principal attractions including the Yadkin River with rock outcrops and entrance to Boone's Cave. Facilities include 0.5 miles of trails, large picnic shelter, and a canoe trail rest stop. This facility is approximately forty-five (45) miles northeast of Cornelius.

Crowders Mountain State Park

This state park's principal attractions are Crowders Mountain and King's Pinnacle, with sheer vertical cliffs and scenic overlooks. Facilities include thirteen (13) miles of trails, rock climbing, fifteen (15) campsites, two (2) picnic shelters, and a 9-acre lake with bank fishing. This facility is located off of Interstate 85 south of Gastonia, NC, and is approximately forty-five (45) miles southwest of Cornelius.

Private or Semi-Public Facilities

Cornelius Community Garden

This garden is on Catawba Avenue, in the Smithville community, on Town-owned land. It is operated by the Smithville Community Coalition and other volunteers, and offers sixty-five (65) raised-bed plots, including four (4) accessible plots, to any Town resident for a small annual fee. Additionally, the garden includes "charity rows", where volunteers grow and harvest fresh produce that is distributed to area charities benefiting low-income recipients.

Lake Norman YMCA

The Lake Norman YMCA, one of two branches in the U.S. that is situated on a waterfront, features state-of-the-art exercise equipment, multiple studios for their 300+ group exercise classes each week, childcare and camp facilities, and athletics facilities. The facility also includes: waterfront beach, beach pavilion, group fitness studio, yoga/Pilates studio overlooking the lake, indoor pool, outdoor pool, family and adult locker rooms with steam rooms and saunas, sports fields, two (2) tennis courts, gymnastics center, gymnasium and two (2) fitness centers.



2 Section 2

Demographics and Public Input

Introduction

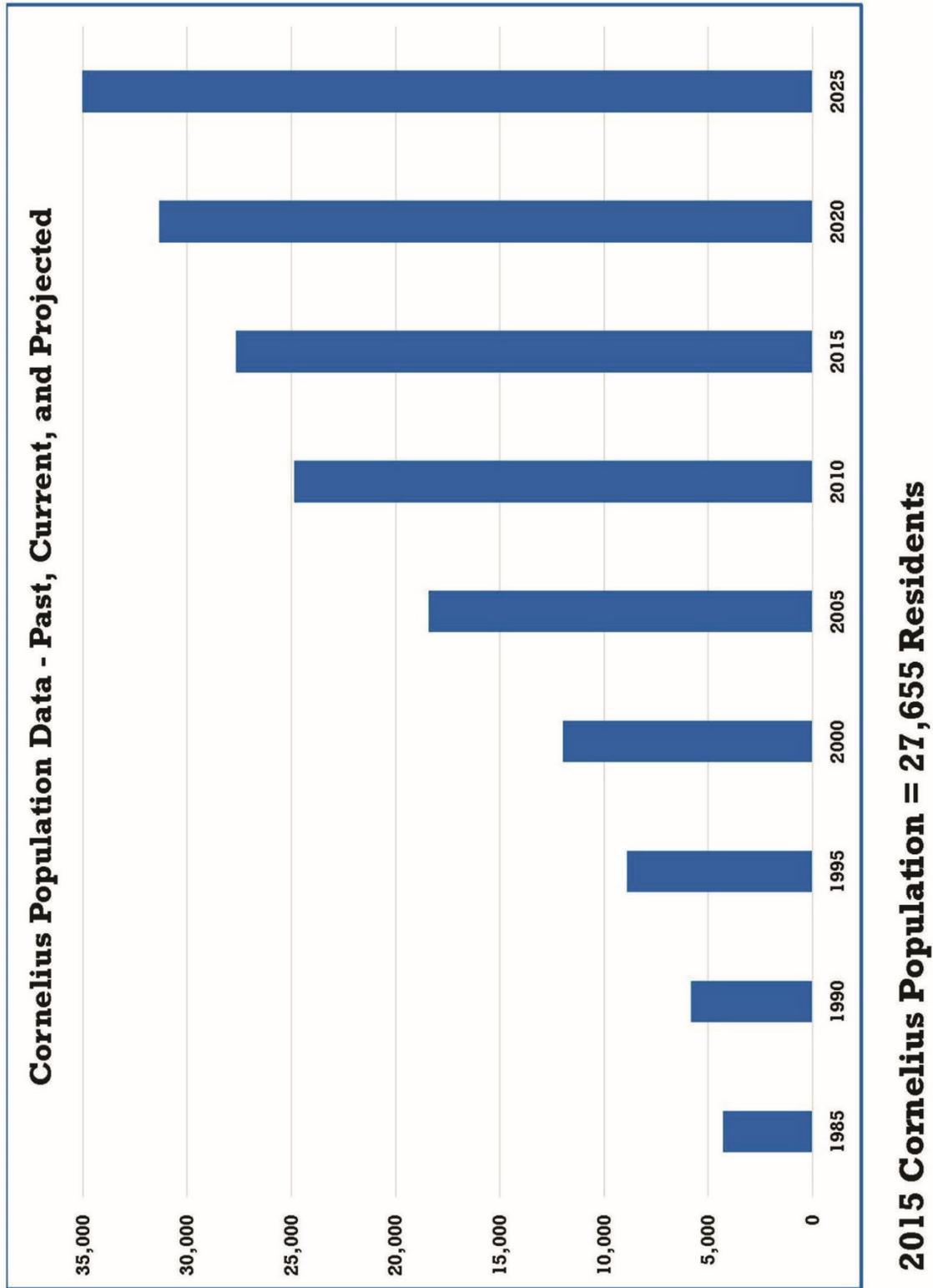
Change is occurring rapidly in Cornelius. The population increased significantly from 2000 to 2010. While the growth rate will slow compared to the previous decade, the Town's population will still steadily increase in the next ten years. In order to develop a plan that meets the Town's specific needs, this planning effort attempted to define the citizens' park and recreation preferences through a series of public input initiatives. Through these various efforts, considerable insight was gained regarding the public desires for public parks and recreation programs and methods of funding those facilities. While citizen needs mirrored national and state trends in several ways, there were still unique needs citizens identified and that are reflected in this Plan.

Population of Cornelius

In order to use recreation standards to project the Town's future needs, population trends and projections must be identified for the Town through the planning period (2015-2025). The 2010 Census provided valuable information on changes that occurred in Cornelius. The population of the Town of Cornelius in 2000 was 11,969. The 2010 Census listed the Town's population at 24,866. An updated Town population was provided by the State of North Carolina Office of Budget and Management stating that a July 1, 2013, certified population estimate was 27,655. Population growth is expected to continue with an estimated "total build out" in 2025 when the total population of the Town will be approximately 35,000. The estimate is based on projections from the Town Planning Department and their evaluation of potential development.

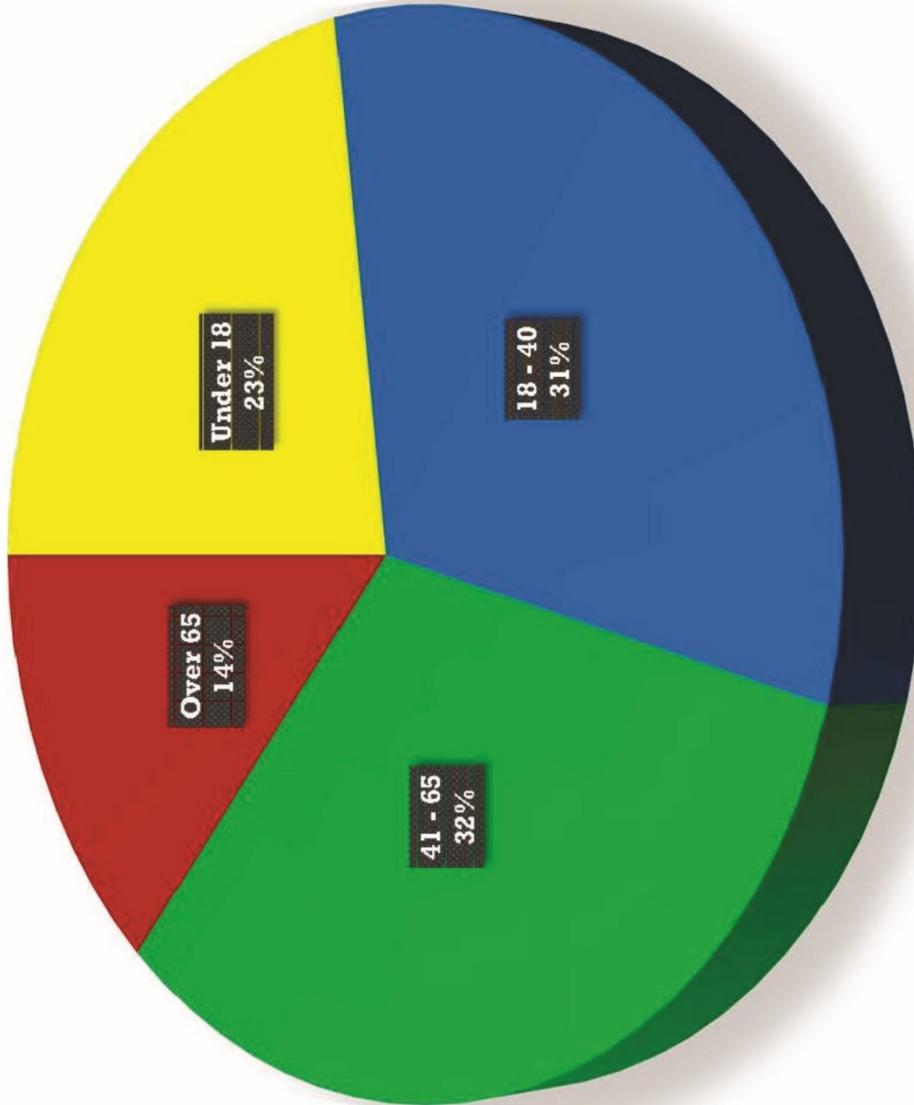
Estimated Total Build-Out Population of Cornelius

Spearheaded by the Town Planning Department, an updated Land Use Plan was adopted by the Town Board of Commissioners in January 2014. One part of the process of developing the new plan was to perform an evaluation of the Town's population capacity using CommunityViz Software. CommunityViz software is a decision-based software that evaluates competing future year growth scenarios under consideration. Each land use category evaluated has an associated density if that category would allow for residential population both existing and proposed. To determine the projected build-out, an average was used. This land use evaluation resulted in a Town build-out population of approximately 35,000.



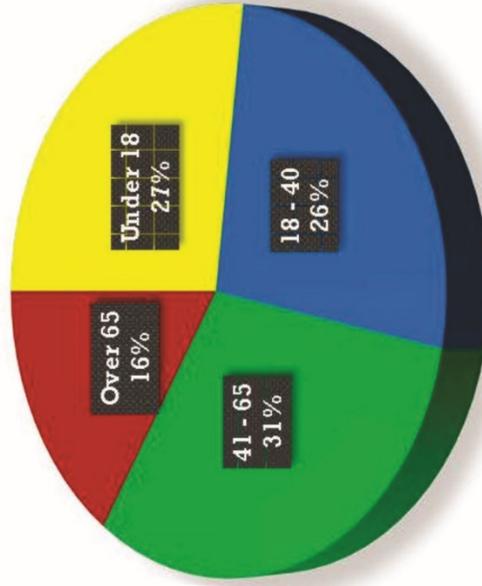


Town of Cornelius Population Age Distribution - 2015

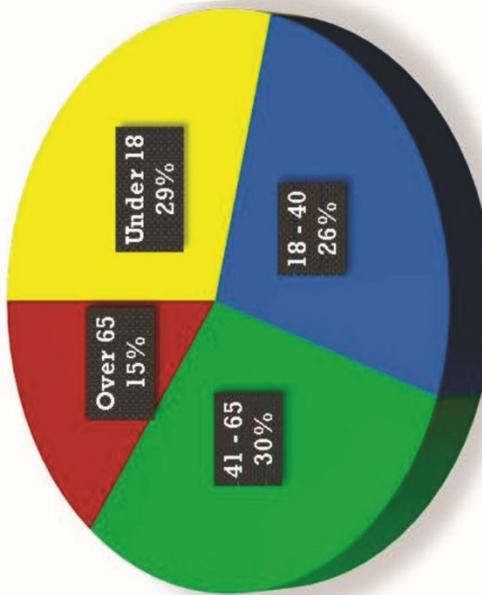




**City of Statesville, NC
Age Distribution**



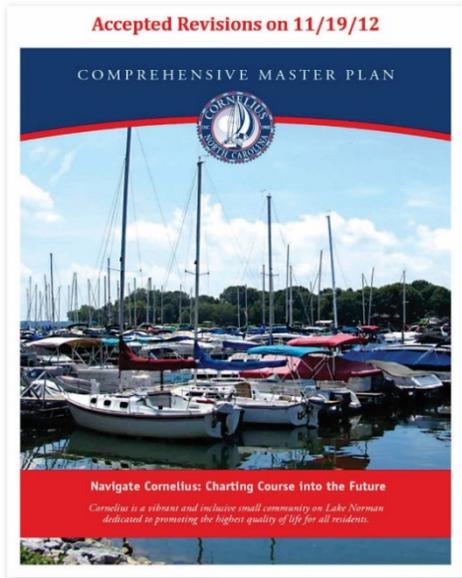
**Town of Garner, NC
Age Distribution**



Comparative North Carolina City/Town Population Age Distribution

Garner, NC = 26,772 Residents

Statesville, NC = 25,432 Residents



Public Input – Navigate Cornelius

Public input for park and greenway growth and development actually started several years ago. *Navigate Cornelius: Charting Course into the Future* was launched in 2010 as a community-wide initiative to develop the Town’s first Comprehensive Master Plan. The intent was to create an official blueprint for long-term, responsible growth. In the spirit of grassroots involvement and inclusion, the planning process was driven by residents, businesses, property owners, local interest groups, and elected officials. As part of the process, Theme Committees made up of citizens were created to further define issues, outcomes, and goals. One of those Theme Committees was *Leisure and Commerce – Recreation, Parks, and Lake Access*. Several recommendations came from *Navigate Cornelius*, including the development and enhancement of “green infrastructure”. Green

infrastructure represents the interconnected network of parks, open space, natural features, pedestrian walkways, bike paths, and scenic areas that define the environmental cohesiveness of Cornelius. Additional recommendations include promoting a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly environment, a commitment to the arts, and providing local activity centers which may include a park facility surrounded by a coffee shop, restaurant, amphitheater, playground, plaza, park, town hall, or movie theater.

PUBLIC INPUT - PHASE 1

As part of the planning process, the Town of Cornelius and the consultant developed a methodology for obtaining public input through several means. This first phase of the public input process included the following prepared and facilitated by the University of North Carolina - Charlotte, Masters of Public Administration Program.

Resident Survey

The first activity involved a citizen survey. The sampling frame was derived from a random sample of Mecklenburg County voter registration records and the Mecklenburg County master address database. The sample was designed to provide a statistically valid representation of citizen needs. Due to the income disparity between households east and west of Interstate 77, the sample was stratified to provide adequate representation based on household location. Data were collected from community residents on five primary dimensions: facility usage, facility satisfaction, facility preferences, importance perceptions, and support for additional taxes for facility development. Per the request of the PARC Department, the survey focused on public attitudes towards facility development only and did not include programming. The survey was administered through a combination of mail, online, in-person, and telephone methods. Despite three follow-up attempts, the survey only achieved a response rate of 13 percent (13%), or 118 valid responses. Despite the poor response rate, the sampling obtained a ninety-five percent (95%) confidence level with a sampling error of +/- nine percent (9%). The Parks and Greenway Master Plan Survey can



be found in Appendix A. The detailed description of the survey methodology and results can be found in Appendix B.

Public Forums

Public forums were conducted on October 8 and October 10, 2013. Each forum began with an overview of the needs assessment project, including reasoning for the 2005 Master Plan update. Four breakout groups were formed, focusing on 1) greenways and natural trails; 2) athletic facilities; 3) indoor and cultural facilities; and 4) open, natural, and waterfront space. Each section was set up to introduce the current facilities available to the public, followed by an open discussion among forum participants to gauge their satisfaction with current facilities, as well as their perceived needs. Themes derived from the forums were compared to survey and interview themes in order to develop community need recommendations for this report.

Stakeholder Interviews

In-person and telephone interviews were conducted with a diverse group of twenty-nine (29) stakeholders from the Town of Cornelius between September 23, 2013, and November 7, 2013. Interviews were conducted with representatives from the PARC Commission, the Planning Department, the Town Board's elected officials, and PARC staff members. The representatives were identified by PARC Director, Troy Fitzsimmons, based on their relationship with PARC and the Town. Although each respondent represented a different interest within the Town, they were asked the same set of questions in order to create a beneficial cross-section of responses for this assessment. The purpose of these interviews was to identify each stakeholder's overall opinion on the Town's park and recreational facilities. Respondents were asked to elaborate on their opinions regarding:

- Current state of parks
- Areas where the Town parks excel
- Areas within parks where improvements are needed
- Future direction of Town parks
- Potential funding resources
- Feasibility of proposed visions
- Future direction of partnerships with:
 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
 - Mecklenburg County
 - Neighboring towns (Davidson and Huntersville)

An interview content analysis was then conducted and the responses were categorized by theme. A list of the interviewed stakeholders, the interview questionnaire, and the interview results are provided in Appendix C.

PUBLIC INPUT PHASE 2

Additional public input was gained from two community workshops facilitated by PARC staff and the consultant.

Community Workshop 1

This input and brainstorming workshop was held on October 9, 2014, at Cornelius Town Hall and was attended by approximately forty (40) members of the public. A brief presentation



was conducted which included a summary of the results from the survey, community focus sessions, and interviews. Additionally presented were discussion topics including the master planning process, where Cornelius parks and greenways currently stand compared to national and local standards, current trends in park and recreation activities, and what attendees would like to see in park and activity development.

Public input from this workshop included the following:

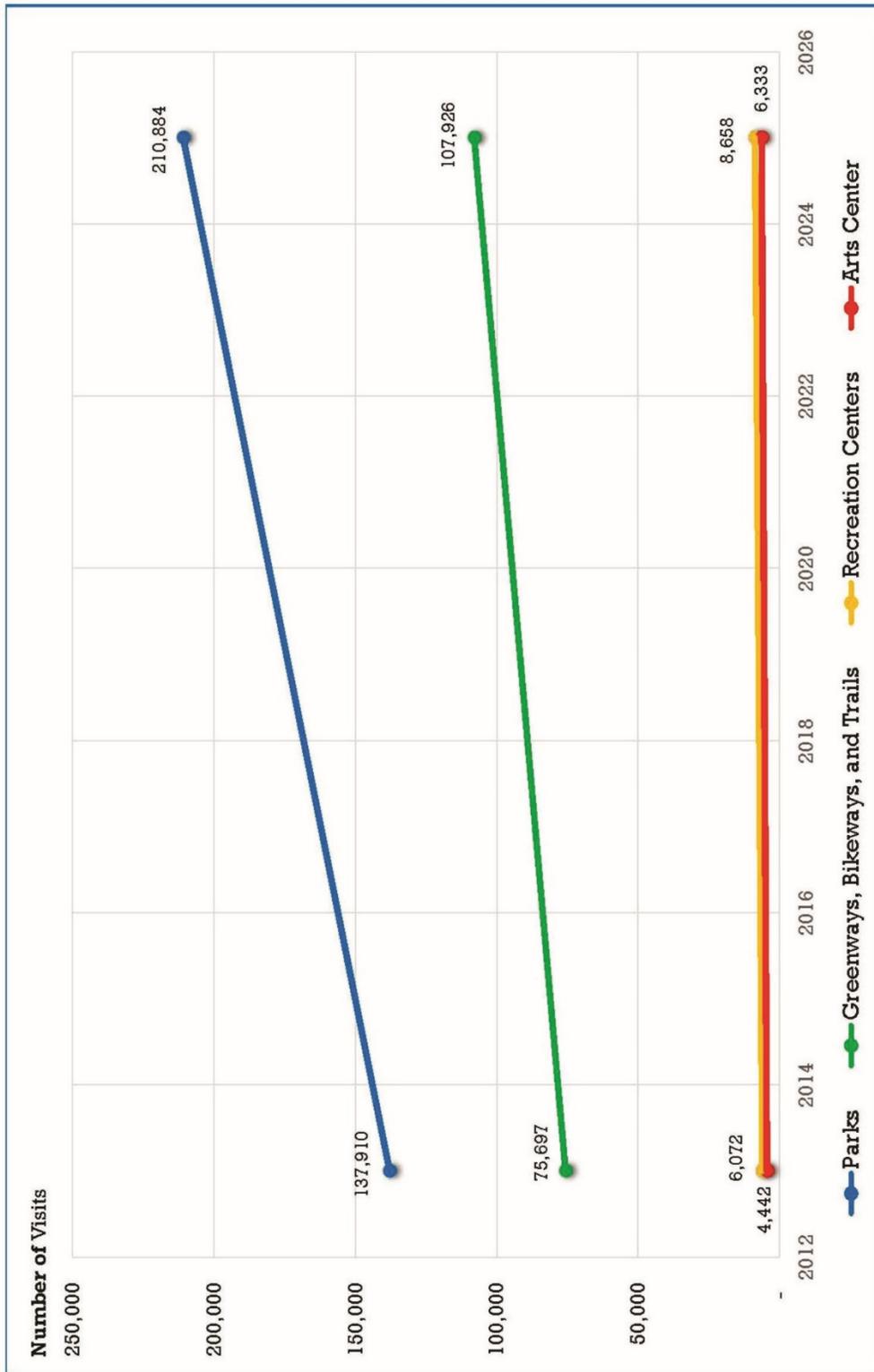
- Cornelius Elementary playground – *Make the playground area more like a public park; add a track, benches, other uses*
- Concern about the proposed greenway location at Willow Pond – *Want to be able to provide input on alignment*
- Need some larger natural open areas
- Need “Yield to Pedestrian” signs along walking routes
- Bocce courts at Town Hall property
- Make the Town and commercial areas more walking friendly
- More urban parks in downtown and commercial areas – *How do we require commercial properties to develop park spaces in new and/or existing developments?*
- Incorporate more pickleball – *Incorporate in both tennis courts and stand alone for smaller spaces*
- Add outdoor fitness stations along walks/trails in parks
- Develop a bike-sharing program – *Rent a bicycle in one park location and return it to another that may be along a trail/greenway route*
- Need more benches everywhere
- More community gardens – *Not only for vegetables, but add cut flower gardens*
- Sculpture garden(s) – *Need one!*
- Formal garden(s) – *Possibly used for weddings, events, etc.*

Community Workshop 2

This second input workshop was held at Cornelius Town Hall on December 11, 2014, and was attended by approximately fifteen (15) members of the public. A brief presentation was conducted which included a summary of the master planning process, where Cornelius parks and greenways currently stand, and an existing coverage analysis for parks. Additionally presented were recommendations for re-purposing and redevelopment of existing facilities, recommendations for new park and greenway locations, and proposed park coverage areas including new facilities.

Town of Cornelius PARC Commission Input

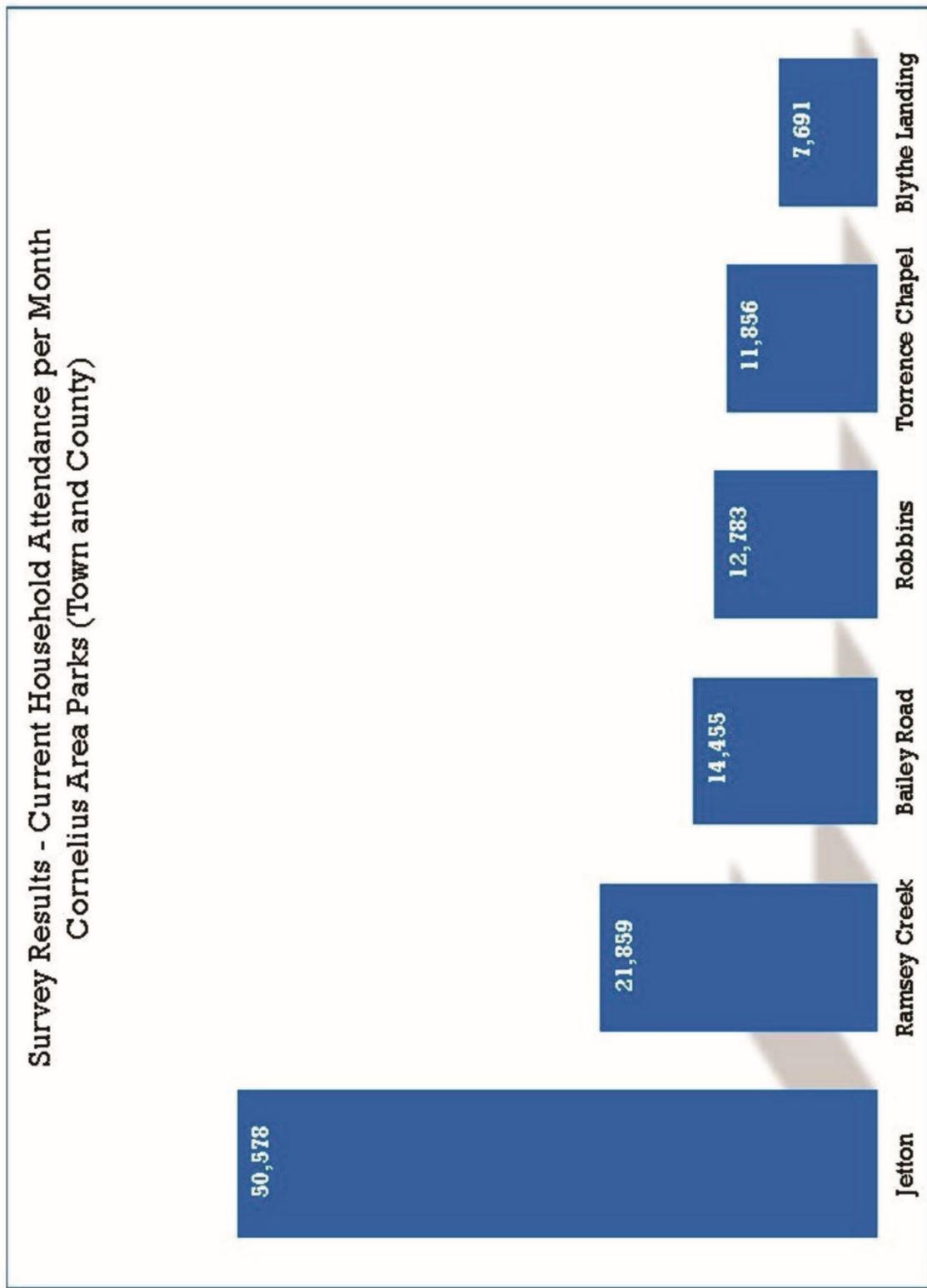
The Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Commission’s nine (9) members are appointed by the Town Board of Commissioners. Commission members are made up of Cornelius residents with a strong interest in the continued support and development of parks, arts, recreation, and culture. Several presentations and discussion sessions were held with the PARC Commission and the consultant to gain input and act as a sounding board for recommendations. A committee of PARC Commissioners was created to provide specific input and act as liaison for the whole commission.

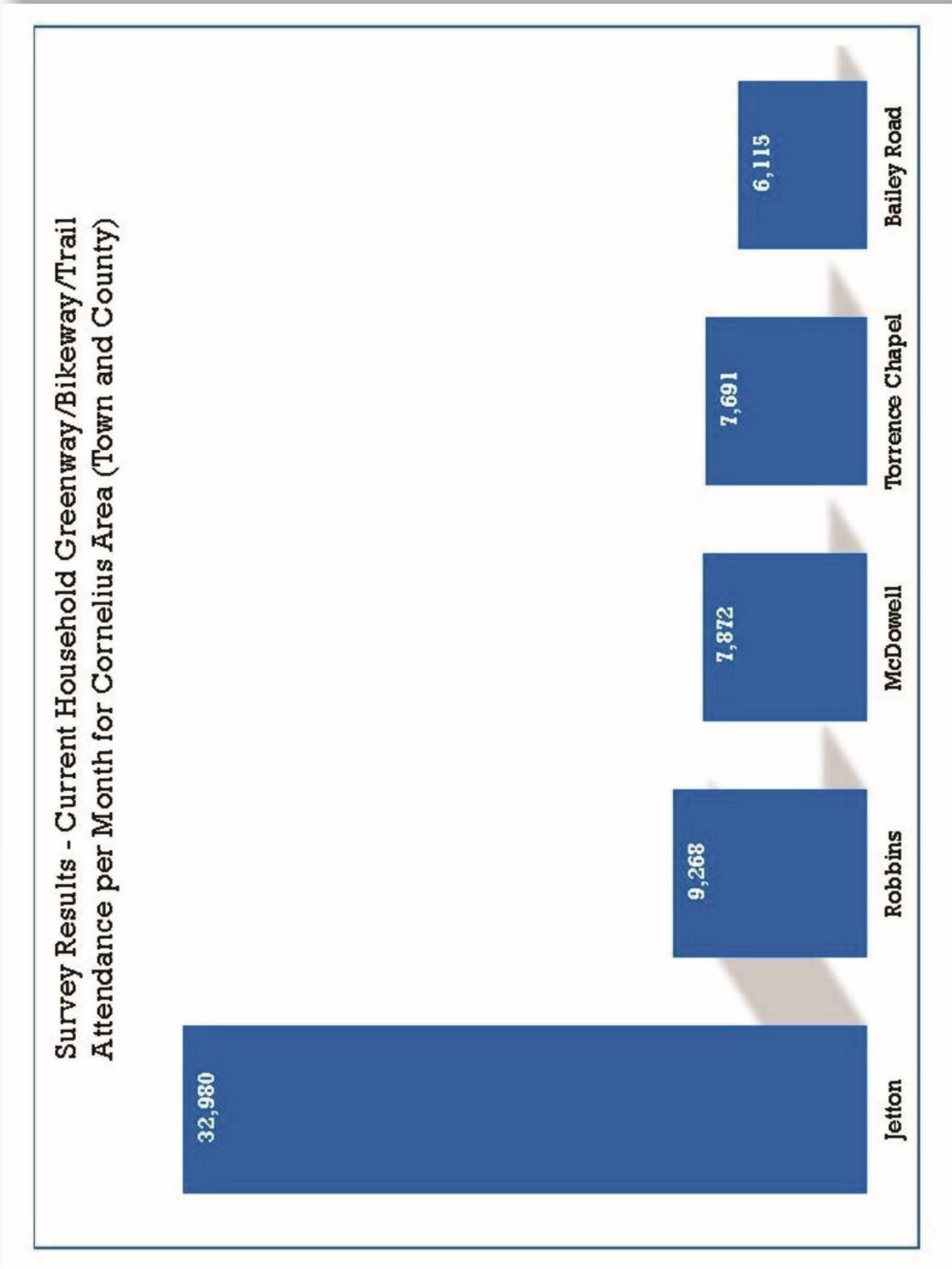


Survey Results - Projected PARC Facility Visitation Growth from 2013-2025



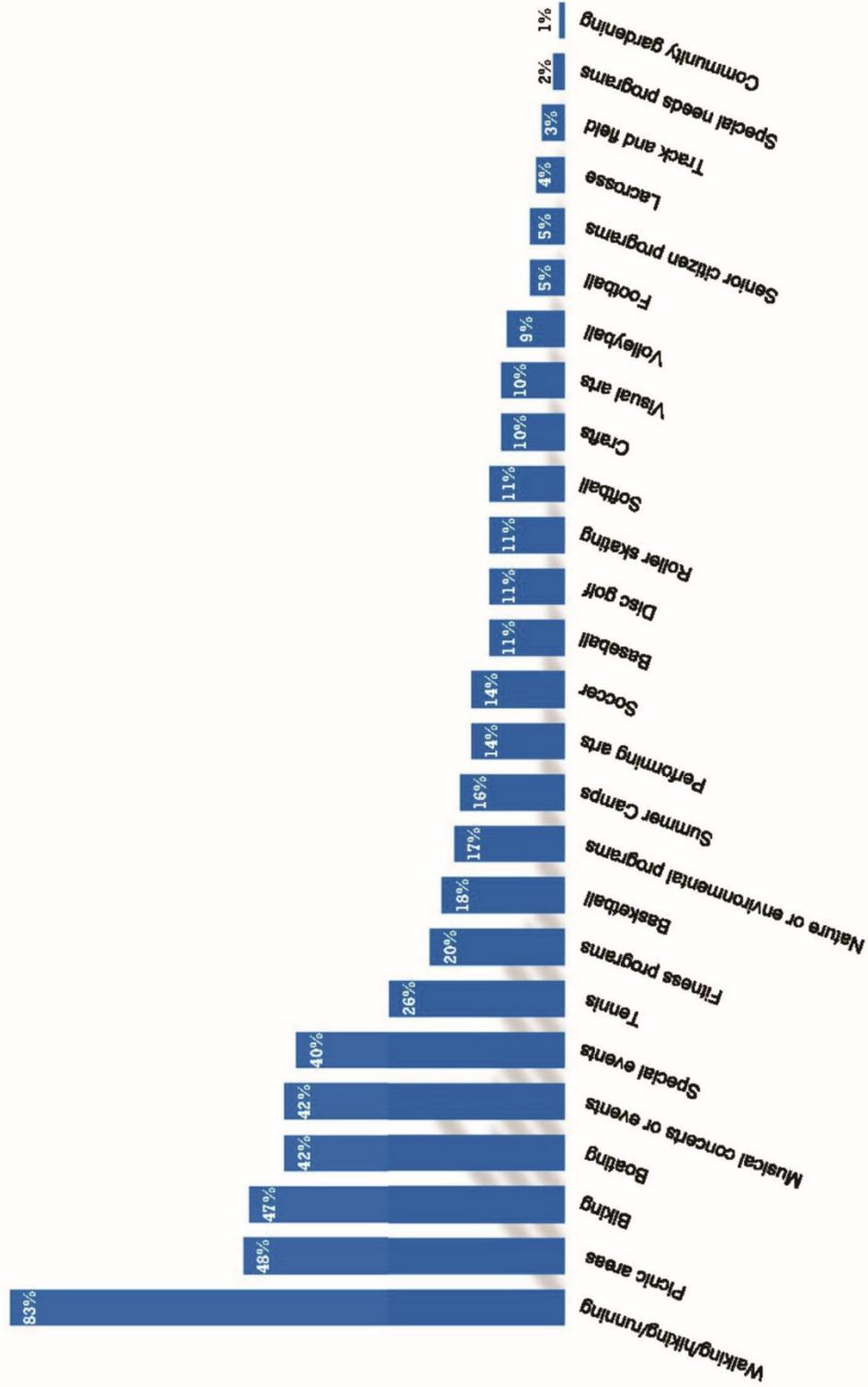
Survey Results - Current Household Attendance per Month
Cornelius Area Parks (Town and County)





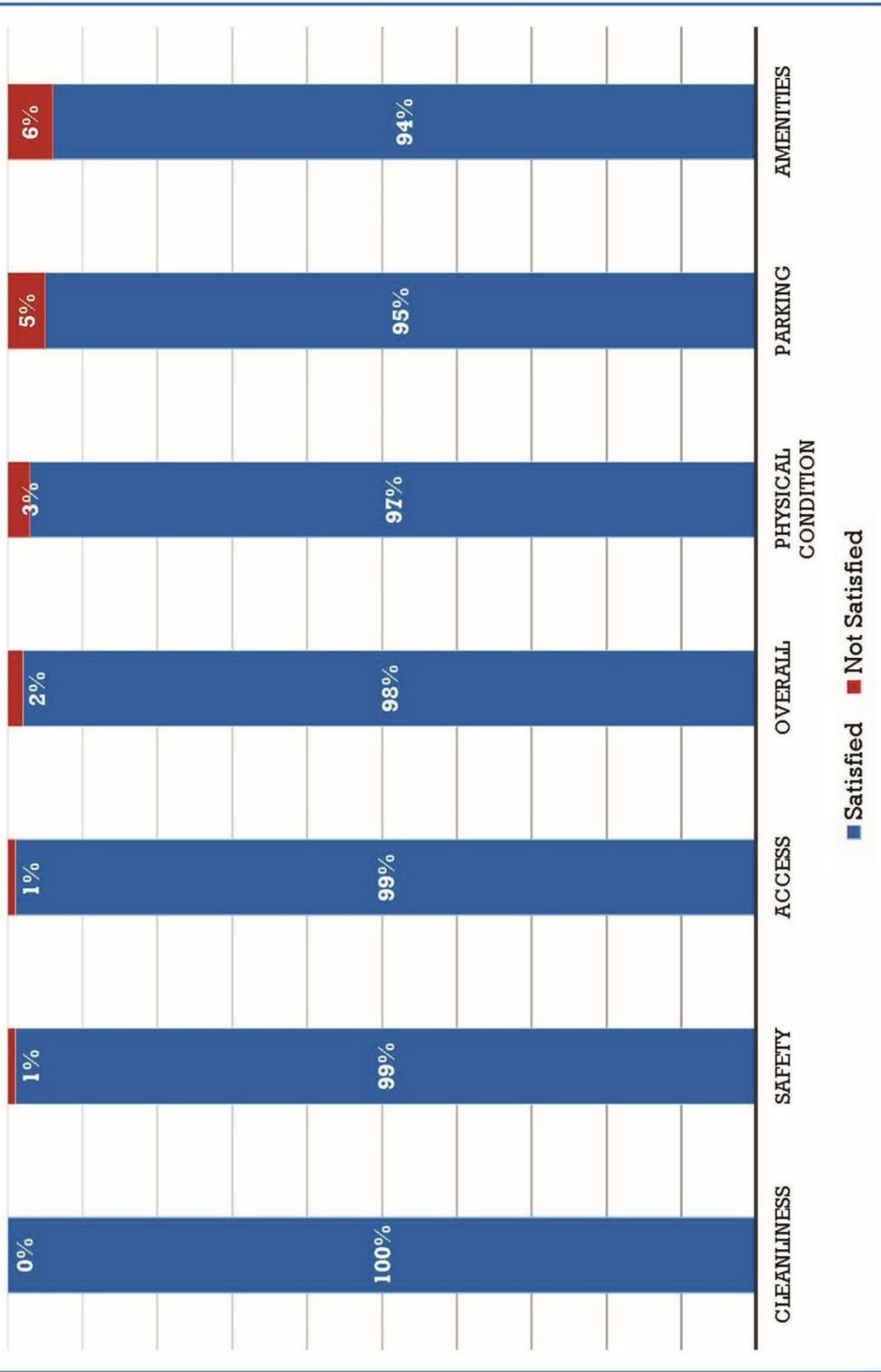


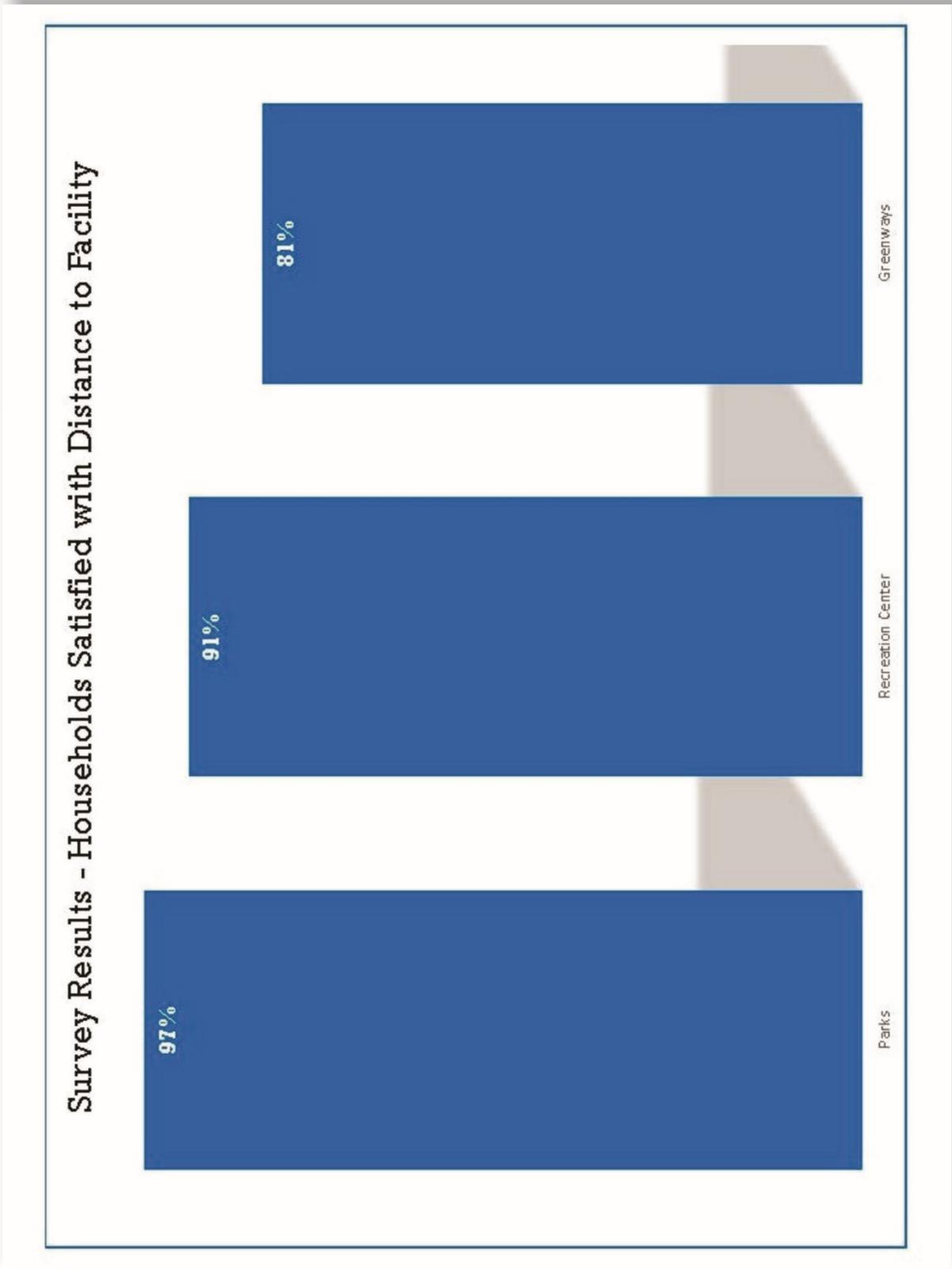
Survey Results - Current Activities





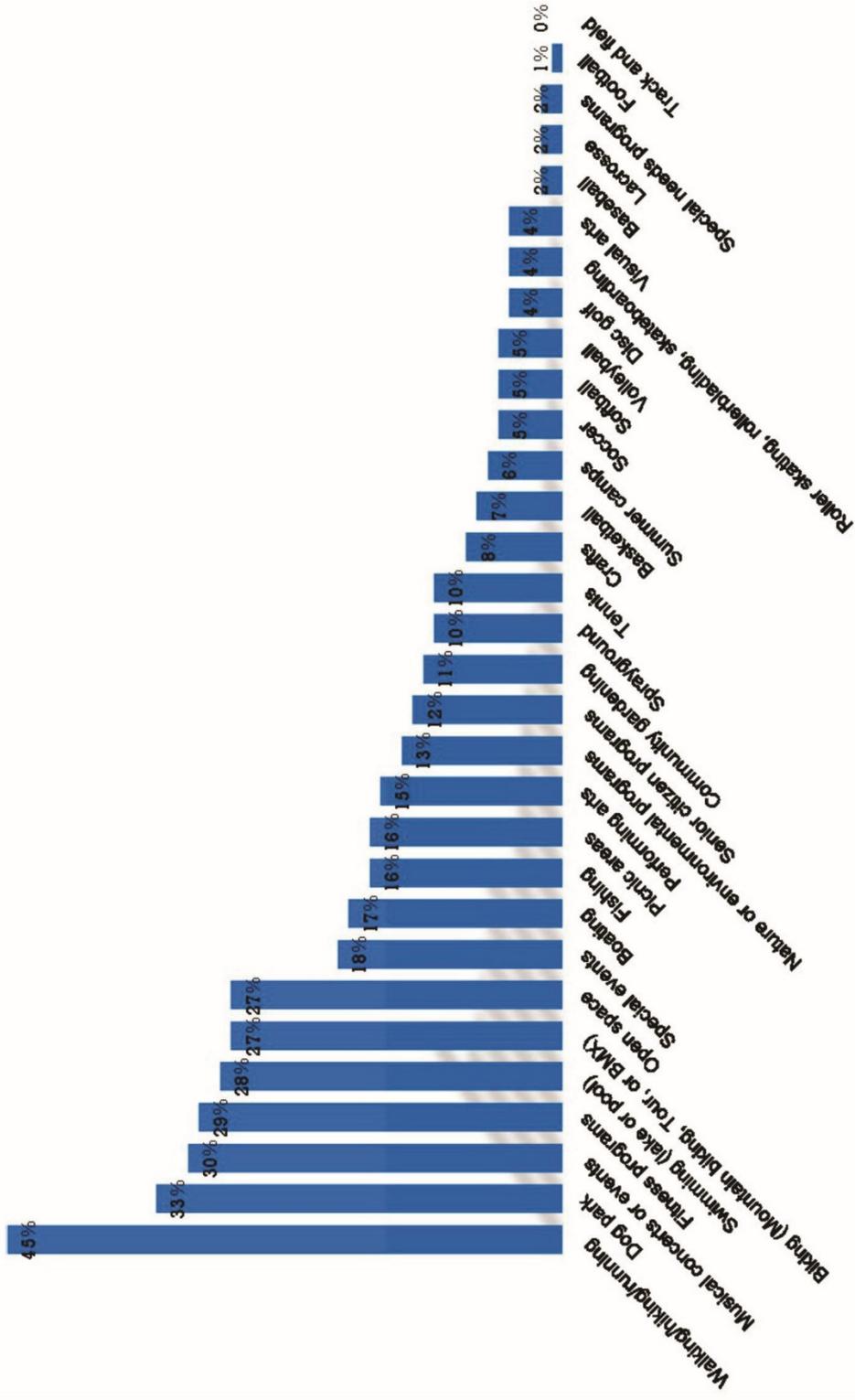
Survey Results - Household Satisfaction with All Facilities
Across Seven Aspects





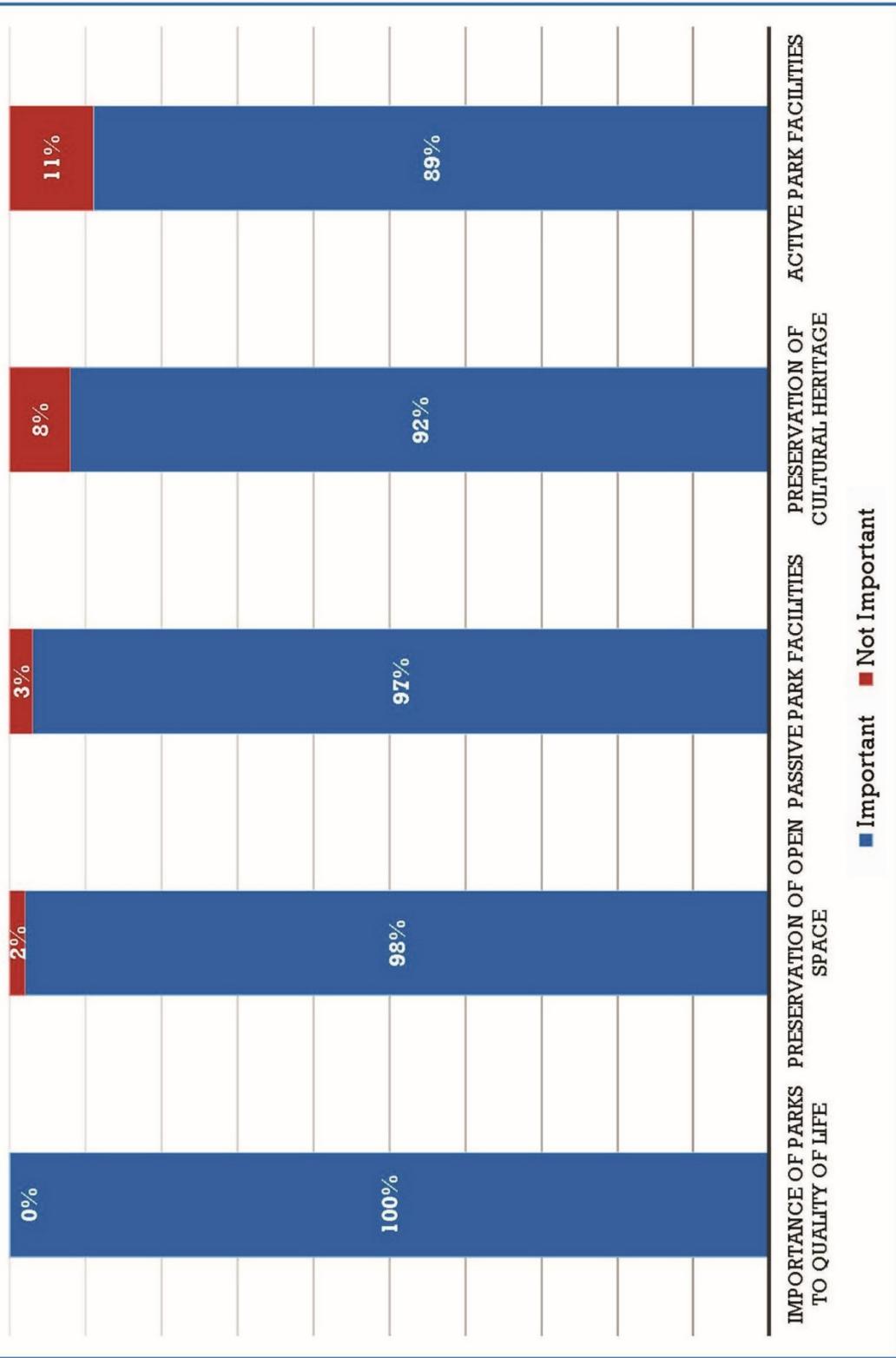


Survey Results - Top Activities for which Facilities are Needed



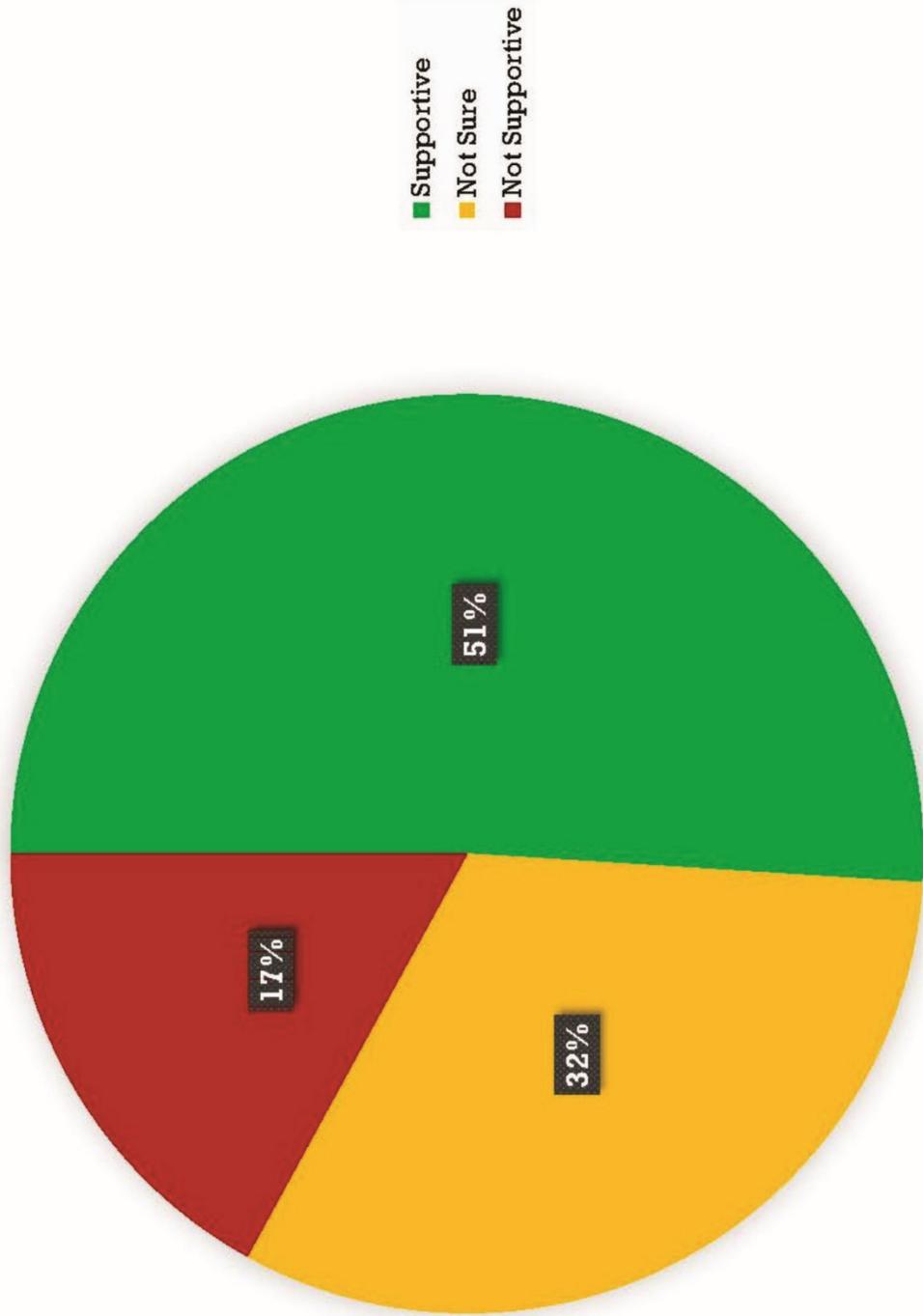


Survey Results - Household Importance On...





Survey Results - Support for Additional Taxes to Build
Park, Recreation, and Greenway Facilities





3 Section 3

Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment

Introduction

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), in their publication “Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines”, edited by R. A. Lancaster, defines recreation and park standards in this manner:

“Community recreation and park standards are the means by which an agency can express recreation and park goals and objectives in quantitative terms, which in turn, can be translated into spatial requirements for land and water resources. Through the budget, municipal ordinances, cooperative or joint public-private efforts, these standards are translated into a system for acquisition, development and management of recreation and park resources.”

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. A variety of standards has been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the "percent of area" approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations.

National and state standards are a useful guide in determining minimum requirements; however, the Town of Cornelius has established its own standards in consideration of the expressed needs of the residents.

Goals for Town Facility Standards

The overall goal for the Town is to provide a minimum of 9.75 acres of public Town parks, and 0.4 miles of greenway per 1000 Town residents. This goal is further expanded to provide these facilities, or direct access to facilities within one-half mile of every Cornelius resident. Currently the Town is providing 8.80 acres of Town-owned/operated park facility per 1,000 residents. The goal of 9.75 acres per 1,000 residents is a proposed standard for Town-owned facilities, and does not include county, state, or adjacent jurisdiction facilities, as they each have their own individual standards.



TOWN PARK CLASSIFICATION AND LAND REQUIREMENTS

Community Park

A community park is easily accessible to either a single or several neighborhoods depending on local needs and population distribution at the time the park is developed. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to public schools to provide multiple or joint use of facilities. The community park provides recreational opportunities for the entire family and contains areas suited for intense active recreational purposes including a recreation center building, athletic fields, swimming, tennis, and walking/jogging trails. The park may also possess areas of natural quality for passive outdoor recreation such as viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Community parks should be 20 to 100 acres in size, with a desired size of 40 acres or more. Community parks should serve a population from 5,000 - 10,000. However, it may become necessary to use a site that is smaller than 40 acres and many times these sites can accommodate community park usage if they have very few limitations for development (gentle slopes, no easements or restrictions etc.). Community parks have an average service radius of two miles and require a minimum of 4.5 acres per 1,000 population served.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is designed to serve a population of up to 5,000, but in many instances it may serve even more. Neighborhood parks are typically characterized by recreational activities for each member of the family, such as field games, court games, playground apparatus, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities. The service radius for a neighborhood park is one-half to one mile and is easily accessible to the neighborhood population through safe walking and biking access. Parking may or may not be required. Where feasible the activity areas are equally divided between quiet/passive activities and active play. This type of park may be developed as a school park or community center facility. The park requires 2.5 acres per 1,000 population served and should be 3 to 20 acres.

Mini Park

Mini parks are usually specialized facilities and serve specific needs such as playgrounds, sitting/resting areas, or urban parks. This park is typically located close to higher density neighborhoods, multi-family communities, urban areas, commercial developments, and senior-oriented communities. The service area for a mini park is one-half mile. A mini park is characterized by its relatively small size of 1 to 3 acres, and requires .25 acres per 1,000 population served.

Specialty Parks

Unique or special areas are park types that exist to enhance or utilize a special man-made or natural feature. They can include natural areas, beaches or shorelines, unique educational opportunities, historical sites, community gardens, sites of archeological significance, arboretums, conservation easements, floodplains, etc. Currently the Town encourages community gardening through an ongoing program to provide startup funding for these specialty park types. The Town of Cornelius standard for specialty parks has an average service radius of two miles and a desirable 2.5 acres per 1,000 population served. Because specialty parks will vary, they should be of a size sufficient to protect and interpret the



resource while providing optimum use. The county and state also provide specialty parks as a park type, however may use different service radii and acres per population served.

Linear Park / Greenway

A linear park is an area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking and biking. Often the linear park will be developed to connect recreational facilities, schools, and residential neighborhoods. The acreage and service area of a linear park is variable and subject to existing natural and manmade features, the existence of public right-of-way, and the public demand for this type of park. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with recreational use a secondary objective. The linear park or greenway requires 0.4 miles per 1,000 population served.

Regional Park – County

Regional parks ideally shall be a minimum of 100 acres in size or larger and shall serve a broad geographic region of the county. Each citizen living within the county shall have access to a regional park by driving no more than 20 minutes. Regional parks shall serve a population standard of 5 acres per 1,000 persons. Amenities within these parks will be both active and passive in nature. Regional parks will support competitive athletic leagues and tournaments and have numerous athletic and passive park amenities such as tennis and basketball courts, softball/baseball, multi-purpose fields, shelters, playgrounds, walking trails, and other amenities that provide for an all-day experience. Indoor facilities such as shelters, recreation centers, aquatic centers, and other special facilities are also typical in a regional park. One-hundred-foot buffers shall be maintained around the entire perimeter of these parks.

Nature Preserve – County

Nature preserves protect natural areas and are managed for their ecological value and native biodiversity and, where appropriate, provide the public with the opportunity to explore and experience nature. Nature preserves protect and enhance air and water quality, contribute to the public understanding of natural systems and native species, provide sites for educational activities, outdoor recreation, wildlife observation, and nature appreciation, and preserve unique features and the natural beauty of the county. Designation of sites of any size are authorized where warranted to protect a significant ecological, geological, or cultural resource (when co-located with a significant ecological resource).

State or National Park

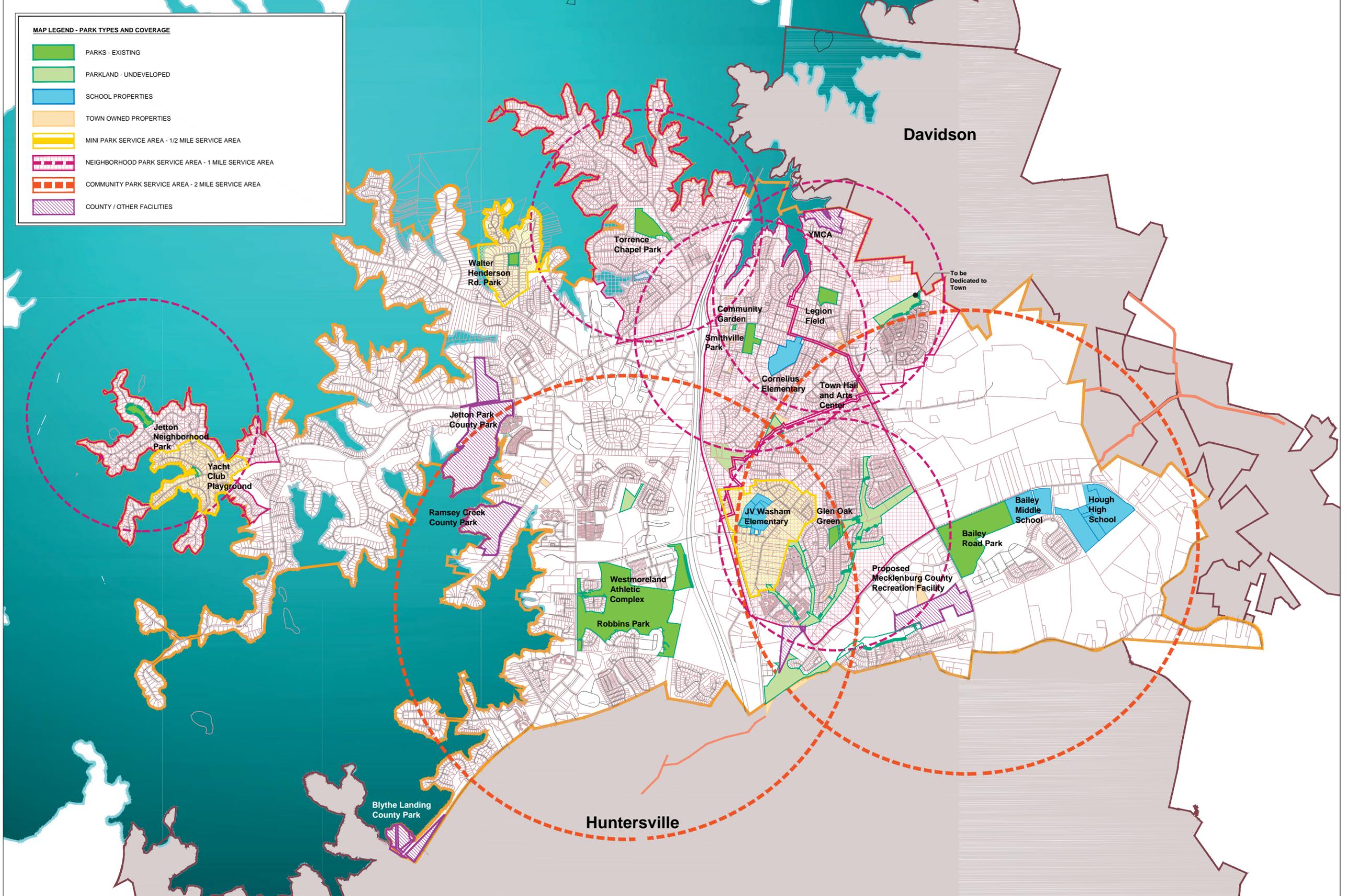
A state or national park is a park with a 50-mile service radius that serves several communities or a multicounty region. Approximately 10 acres per 1,000 population served is the standard for providing state/national park acreage and generally 400 to 1,000 acres is required for development. The state/national park provides access to diverse and unique natural resources for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as nature viewing and study, wildlife habitat conservation, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. Usually 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% of



the site developed for active recreation. The recreation areas consist of play areas and open fields/meadows for informal use.

Total Acreage per Park Classification

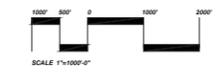
The minimum parkland requirement (in acres) for the total population for the Town of Cornelius is provided in the table shown on page 3-6 of this section. The acreage requirement is based upon the population ratio method (acres of parkland per 1,000 population) established for each park and park type.



**Town of Cornelius - PARC
Comprehensive Parks and
Greenways Master Plan**

**Park Types and Coverage
Existing Facilities**

May 7, 2015





Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025
Section 3 – Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment

Park Sites and Acreage per Park Type

Park Type & Cornelius Standards Typical Acreage	Parks Required Based on Standards		Developed Existing Parks	Park Needs	
	2015 Population 27,655	2025 Population 35,000 (estimated)		2015 Population	2025 Population
Mini Parks 1-3 Acres/Park (.25 acres/1,000)	7 acres 5 sites	9 acres 6 sites	5 acres 3 sites	2 acres 2 sites	4 acres 3 sites
Neighborhood Parks 3-20 Acres/Park (2.5 Acres/1,000)	69 acres 8 sites	88 acres 10 sites	41 acres 5 sites	28 acres 3 sites	46 acres 5 sites
Community Parks 20-100 Acres/Park (4.5 Acres/1,000)	124 acres 3 sites	158 acres 3 sites	148 acres 3 sites	-24 acres 0 sites	10 acres 0 sites
Specialty Parks 2-40 Acres/Park (2.5 Acres/1,000)	69 acres 3 sites	88 acres 4 sites	50 acres 2 sites	19 acres 1 site	38 acres 3 sites
Total Park Sites and Acreage needed @ 9.75 Acres/1,000	269 acres	342 acres	244 acres	25 acres (49 actual acres*) 6 Park Sites	98 acres 11 Park Sites
Greenways (0.4 miles/1,000)	11 miles	14 miles	1 mile	10 miles	13 miles
Regional Parks 100+ Acres/Park (4.5 Acres/1,000)	Provided by the County	Provided by the County			
Nature Preserve, State, National 400-1000 Acres/Park (10 Acres/1,000)	Provided by the County, State, and Federal	Provided by the County, State, and Federal			

Mini Parks include JV Washam Football Field (1.6ac.), Walter Henderson Road Park (3ac.), and Yacht Club Playground (.1ac.) = 4.7 acres
Neighborhood Parks include Glen Oak Green (4.1ac.), Jetton (6.0ac), Legion (7.2ac)

Community Parks include Bailey Road Park (65.6ac.), Robbins Park (62.5ac.), and Westmoreland Athletic Complex (19.4ac.) = 147.5 acres
Specialty Parks include McDowell Creek (1 mile)

* Note: The actual acreage currently needed for parks, 49 acres, is based on park types needed (Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Specialty Parks). The surplus 24 acres of Community Parks does not factor in due to the need for additional park types.



EVALUATION OF PARKLAND SITE NEEDS

Total park sites can be determined from the total acreage requirements for each park classification by dividing the total acreage by the park size standard. By the year 2025 there will be a need for a total of six (6) mini parks, ten (10) neighborhood parks, four (4) specialty parks, three (3) community parks, and fourteen (14) miles of linear park/greenway (existing and proposed sites). This equates to three (3) additional mini parks, five (5) additional neighborhood parks, three (3) additional specialty parks, no additional community parks, and thirteen (13) additional miles of greenways/trails.

Facility Standards

Minimum standards for recreational facilities (i.e., ballfields, courts, outdoor areas, etc.) proposed for the Town of Cornelius were developed in accordance with the industry guidelines established by the NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) and the NCDEHNR (North Carolina Department Environmental Health and Natural Resources) and from input gained during the public meetings, telephone surveys, interviews, and facility demand by the public. Ultimately, the Town developed a facility standard based on current demand for facilities and estimated growth of program need for those facilities.

Evaluation of Facility Needs

Based on the standards that have been established specifically for Cornelius, there will be a need for a number of additional recreational facilities by 2025. The number of public facilities needed in Cornelius, presently through 2025, is identified in tables on pages 3-8, 3-9, and 3-10.

The following facility recommendations are reflective of facility needs using well established national and state standards, as well as strong empirical data from the PARC Department to support these recommended standards. While these facilities identify the majority of various park facility needs, there are emerging recreation trends and changing demographics that require other recreation facilities for its citizens. Though a facility need standard cannot be accurately developed at this time, the Town has received citizen feedback and has seen emerging recreation trends such as community gardening, pickleball, dodgeball, off-leash dog areas, paddleboarding, and outdoor fitness stations to name a few. As the Town plans for new park development or existing park improvements, the need for these emerging trend facilities can be accommodated through the park planning process and incorporated into the overall park system.



Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025
 Section 3 – Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment

Standards for Public Facilities

Facilities	National Recreation and Park Association	N. C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources	Cornelius 2005 Standards	Proposed Cornelius 2015 Standards
Fields	field:people	field:people	field:people	field:people
Youth Baseball	1/6,000	1/10,000	1/3,000	1/2,500
Adult Softball	1/3,000			1/15,000
Youth Softball	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/15,000
Football	1/10,000	1/20,000	1/10,000	1/10,000
Soccer/Lacrosse	1/4,000	1/20,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Courts	courts:people	courts:people	courts:people	courts:people
Outdoor Basketball	1/2,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Indoor Basketball	1/5,000			1/6,000
Tennis	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/2,000	1/1,500
Outdoor Volleyball	1/3,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Indoor Volleyball	1/3,000	1/5,000	1/5,000	1/5,000
Outdoor Areas	outdoor areas:people	outdoor areas:people	outdoor areas:people	outdoor areas:people
Small Picnic Shelter (<50 seats)	1/2,000	1/3,000	1/3,000	1/3,000
Large Picnic Shelter (>50 seats)				1/10,000
Playground	1/2,000	1/3,000	1/1,000	1/2,000
Outdoor Theater	1/20,000			1/20,000
Trails	trails:people	trails:people	trails:people	trails:people
Greenway	1 mile/4,000	1 mile/2,500	1 mile/2,500	1 mile/2,500
Trails - other	1 mile/4,000			1 mile/2,500
Specialized	specialized:people	specialized:people	specialized:people	specialized:people
Recreation Center	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/10,000
Swimming Pool (50 m)	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000	1/20,000
Disc Golf Course - 18 hole				1/12,000
Stream/Lake Mileage	N/A	.2 mile/1,000	.2 mile/1,000	1 mile /5,000



Current and Projected Facility Needs

Facilities	Proposed Cornelius 2015 Standards	Existing Facilities (Town and County)	Current Demand 27,655	Current Need	2025 Demand 35,000	2025 Projected Need
Fields						
Youth Baseball	1/2,500	9	11	2	14	5
Adult Softball	1/15,000	1	2	1	2	1
Youth Softball	1/15,000	1	2	1	3	2
Football	1/10,000	2	3	1	4	2
Soccer/Lacrosse	1/5,000	4	6	2	7	3
Courts						
Outdoor Basketball	1/5,000	3	6	3	7	4
Indoor Basketball	1/6,000	2	5	3	6	4
Tennis	1/1,500	15	18	3	23	8
Volleyball - Outdoor	1/5,000	6	6	0	7	1
Volleyball - Indoor	1/5,000	2	3	1	4	2



Current and Projected Facility Needs

Facilities	Proposed Cornelius 2015 Standards	Existing Facilities	Current Demand 27,655	Current Need	2025 Demand 35,000	2025 Projected Need
Outdoor Areas						
Small Picnic Shelter (<50 seats)	1/3,000	10	9	-1	12	2
Large Picnic Shelter (>50 seats)	1/10,000	2	3	1	4	2
Playground	1/2,000	13	14	1	18	5
Outdoor Theater	1/20,000	1	1	0	2	1
Trails						
Greenway	1 mile/2,500	1.0	11.1	10.1	14.0	13.0
Trails - other	1 mile/2,500	10.8	11.1	0.3	14.0	3.2
Specialized						
Recreation Center	1/10,000	2	3	1	4	2
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	1	1	2	2
Disc Golf Course - 18 hole	1/12,000	2	2	0	3	1
Stream/Lake Mileage	1 mile/5,000	4.6	5.3	0.7	7	2.4



Open Space Standards

Perhaps the most appropriate standard used to calculate open space needs is a determination by the community that certain open space and significant natural areas are necessary to protect. Public open space is defined as any land acquired for the purpose of recreational opportunities either developed or undeveloped for the public or private good. The functions of such land include:

- Protection of drainage areas for water supplies (watersheds)
- Protection of areas which are particularly well suited for growing crops (farmland preservation)
- Protection of attractive waterways (wild and scenic rivers)
- Preservation of spaces between communities to prevent urban sprawl (greenbelts)
- Protection of wildlife habitat (sanctuaries)
- Protection of approach and take-off areas near airports (clear zones)
- Protection of land that cannot be developed (landfills)

While no definitive standard has been set, the Town currently has (or is working towards acquiring) 137 acres of public open space at several sites. While some of this land may be used for greenways or small parks, the majority will be left as natural area.

Benchmarking Standards Relative to Other Communities

To better understand how towns/cities similar to Cornelius are funding their park and recreation programs, an evaluation was performed and prepared in July 2014, by Town staff. The following towns and cities were evaluated in comparison to Cornelius:

- Garner, NC – Population 26,589
- Kernersville, NC – Population 23,823
- Statesville, NC – Population 24,710
- Thomasville, NC – Population 26,746
- Asheboro, NC – Population 25,381
- Wake Forest, NC – Population 31,786

The current population of Cornelius is 27,655. The following table on page 3-12 compares several park-related factors between the jurisdictions.



Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025
Section 3 – Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment

2014/2015 Comparative Analysis

LOCATION	POPULATION	BUDGET	\$/capita	# OF FT EMPLOYEES	Developed Acres	AC/1000	\$/AC	AC/FTE	REC CTR/GYM	PLAY GROUNDS	TENNIS	BASKETBALL	DIAMOND FIELDS	RECTANGLE FIELDS
Cornelius FY15	27,655	\$1,730,521	\$63	10	244	8.8	\$7,092	24	2	10	7	3	11	6
Garner	26,589	\$2,234,292	\$84	19	271	10.2	\$8,245	14	2	12	6	1	8	3
Kernersville	23,823	\$1,150,489	\$48	8	178	7.5	\$6,463	22	1	4	6	2	3	7
Statesville FY15	24,710	\$2,176,140	\$88	25	285	11.5	\$7,636	11	2	17	10	10.5	5	8
Thomasville	26,746	\$1,787,033	\$67	11	106	4.0	\$16,859	10	0	5	3	6	1	10
Asheboro	25,381	\$3,333,721	\$131	22	1293	50.9	\$2,578	59	0	6	12	4	6	0
Wake Forest FY15	31,786	\$5,180,800	\$163	19	561	17.6	\$9,235	30	1	8	8	2	5	3
MEAN:	26,506	\$2,643,746	\$97	17	420	15.8	\$8,503	24	1	9	8	4	5	5
MEDIAN:	25,985	\$2,205,216	\$86	19	278	10.9	\$7,941	18	1	6	7	3	5	5



4 Section 4

Recommendations

Introduction

The Town of Cornelius and its PARC Department currently have the mission to serve the recreation needs of the Town's citizens by offering a variety of recreation programs and facilities through a growing system of attractive and safe public parks. The population of Cornelius has grown significantly in the past ten years and will continue to show significant growth for the next decade. Based on current population projections, the Town's population (27,655) will reach 35,000 by 2025. There is certain to be increased demand for quality leisure services and the citizens of Cornelius will expect the Town to be the main provider.

Currently there is a need for both new facilities and additional park acreage in the Town. This need will grow with the population over the next decade. Available land for recreational development in the Cornelius area is very limited and the Town will need to act quickly to acquire property for parks and recreation. Large tracts of property are difficult to assemble due to market demand. Thus, land values are extremely high. More recreation programs will be desired and existing programs will be expected to grow in size with the addition of new park facilities. These demands will create a need for additional staff and increased funds for the PARC Department to adequately meet its mission.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

New Park Locations

The Town of Cornelius will focus on developing and operating specialty, community, neighborhood, and mini parks, along with greenways. Section 3 "Recreation Standards and Facility Needs Assessment" identified the existing and future parks needed in the Town. It is recommended by the year 2025 that Cornelius brings its inventory to a total of four (4) specialty parks, three (3) community parks, ten (10) neighborhood parks, six (6) mini parks, and fourteen (14) miles of greenways. Detailed descriptions of park and greenway recommendations are listed below. In addition, general locations of recommended park locations and greenway alignments are shown on the Master Plan maps.

It is recommended that the Town pursue acquiring and developing a Town-owned waterfront park. This goal was a very high priority in the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan, *Navigate Cornelius*.

The Town should collaborate with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, as well as charter schools, on any future school park opportunities as they might look for additional school sites in Cornelius. Cornelius should be a partner when they are considering school sites and possibly acquire additional land to ensure there is a viable school-park facility. The Town should also consider adding or utilizing gymnasium space at any new or renovated school.



The Town should work with the Cornelius Planning Department on reviewing policy for the requirements of parks in new, privately developed residential, commercial, and retail developments, specifically as it relates to mini parks.

The Town should support Mecklenburg County in their effort to develop a regional recreation center that would include indoor sports, volleyball, pickleball, basketball, swimming, etc., as well as proposed outdoor amenities/facilities.

There is a very strong desire for the Town to provide swimming facilities, with both indoor and outdoor pools, and a beach in Lake Norman. Cornelius should work with Mecklenburg County in their effort to provide beach swimming at a Lake Norman facility, and indoor/outdoor pool facilities at the proposed North Regional Recreation Center.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

New Park Locations

N1 - Neighborhood Park – Village Center Park

The Village Center area is generally determined as a portion of the Town’s recently updated Land Use Plan indicated as “Village Center” land use. It is located in the western half of Town with significant emphasis on the Jetton Road Extension/Sefton Park Road area. This area also takes into account a portion of the Town’s Exit 28 Area Plan. The Village Center area is mostly commercially developed, however it is flanked and in close proximity to existing and proposed single and multi-family residential housing. There are also undeveloped and underdeveloped properties within this area. Because there are no large open spaces and land, active recreation fields are not recommended for this area. The neighborhood park, however, could be designed and developed as a hybrid incorporating indoor and outdoor court sports, sand volleyball, fitness, senior emphasis, new recreation technologies, etc. This park could be located in what might be considered a commercial area. It would have strong pedestrian connections along Jetton, Bethel Church, and Knox Roads, and Liverpool Parkway.

N2 - Neighborhood Park – Westmoreland/McDowell Creek Park

The Westmoreland/McDowell Creek area is located in the western side of Town and includes the Westmoreland neighborhood and other single and multi-family residences. It is west of I-77, north of Westmoreland Road, east of Catawba Avenue, and south of the Magnolia Estates neighborhood. The Town currently owns property in this area; however, development will require additional land acquisition for appropriate park facilities in addition to pedestrian and vehicular access. This neighborhood park should be more traditional in nature incorporating active multi-use fields for some programming, playground, shelter, restroom, some parking, etc. Connection of this park to the McDowell Creek Greenway northern extension, which is currently in design, is mandatory. This proposed park area has been included as a recommendation for development in the previous two Master Plans covering a 16-year period.

N3 - Neighborhood Park – Cornelius Elementary Neighborhood Park

At Cornelius Elementary School and in conjunction with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, develop a youth athletic facility at existing dilapidated fields, replace basketball court, and add restroom/picnic shelter building and paved quarter-mile track.



N4 - Neighborhood Park – Bailey Road North Area Park

The Bailey Road North area is located in the eastern portion of Town, north of Bailey Road Park and Hough High and Bailey Middle schools, east of Highway NC 115, and south of the Antiquity community. The Cornelius Planning Department has evaluated possible future development in Cornelius and has concluded that this area is one of only two significant areas of Town that can accommodate any sizable new development. Also, this area is one of two that can accommodate larger park acreages as part of new developments, and include active recreation elements such as fields and courts which are a high priority indicated in the Needs Assessment section of this Master Plan. It is recommended that the PARC Department be included in the review of new developments, and work with the Planning Department to insure that dedicated proposed park properties be usable land for typical neighborhood park elements.

N5 - Neighborhood Park – Mayes Road Area Park

The Mayes Road area is located in the southeast portion of Town, south of Bailey Road Park and Hough High and Bailey Middle Schools, east of Highway NC 115, and north of Mayes Road. The Cornelius Planning Department has evaluated possible future development in Cornelius and has concluded that this area is one of only two significant areas of Town that can accommodate any sizable new development. Also, this area is one of two that can accommodate larger park acreages as part of new developments, and include active recreation elements such as fields and courts which are a high priority indicated in the Needs Assessment section of this Master Plan. It is recommended that the PARC Department be included in the review of new developments, and work with the Planning Department to insure that dedicated proposed park properties be usable land for typical neighborhood park elements.

M1 – Mini Park – Poole Place Park

Poole Place Park (a.k.a. Habitat for Humanity site) is located in the southern section of Town and includes several Town-owned properties. The sites and Town-owned property extend to the north through the southern portion of the Oakhurst community. These properties are also bisected by the current and proposed Bailey Road. The currently designed, and soon to be constructed, Caldwell Station Creek Greenway section passes through the site and terminates at the proposed eco-park property at Highway NC 21. To the northeast the greenway connects to Bailey Road Park, Bailey Middle and Hough High Schools, and eventually to an existing section of the South Prong Rocky Ricer Greenway in Davidson to the east. With a proposed realignment of Bailey Road and future fly-over of I-77 including vehicular, pedestrian, and bike access, this mini park and adjacent specialty park will be able to connect to the existing McDowell Creek Greenway and Robbins Park to the west. Development of these park areas will require creative design solutions due to existing and proposed roads, and moderate to difficult land forms/topography. Typical mini park and, to a degree, neighborhood park elements are recommended as much as practical.

M2 - Mini Park – Northeast Park

Develop a mini park in the area north of the Antiquity development between Zion Street and Summerbrook Drive. This is a relatively small area and the type of mini park uses should be carefully thought out and include input from adjacent residents and businesses.



M3 - Catawba Avenue Mini Parks – Oasis Parks

Develop a series of mini parks along West Catawba Avenue/Jetton Road extension/Catawba Avenue, from Robbins Park/Kenton Place to Town Center. These parks can be used as stopping/resting areas (oases) along a newly enhanced and reinforced pedestrian/bikeway/greenway system, as well as connecting west to east. These can also be used as art/sculpture display areas.

S1 - Specialty Park – Arts Center Urban Park

Develop an arts center in the Town Center area including a large urban park, gathering and event space, sculpture garden, lighted walkways, splash pad, and urban recreation (bocce, chess, etc.). A more detailed description and possible program elements are highlighted later in Section 4.

S2 - Specialty Park – Eco-Park

The eco-park and Poole Place mini park (a.k.a. Habitat for Humanity site) are located in the southern section of Town and is made up of several already Town-owned properties. The County and Town own property extending to the north into the Oakhurst community. The currently designed, and soon to be constructed, Caldwell Station Creek Greenway section terminates at the property and connects to Bailey Road Park, Bailey Middle and Hough High Schools, and eventually to an existing section of the South Prong Rocky River Greenway in Davidson to the east. With a proposed realignment of Bailey Road and future fly-over of I-77 including vehicular, pedestrian, and bike access, this specialty park will be able to connect to the existing McDowell Creek Greenway and Robbins Park to the west. Development of these park areas will require creative design solutions due to existing and proposed roads, and moderate to difficult land forms/topography. There are unique educational opportunities within the eco-park to interpret the biodiversity of this environmentally significant area.

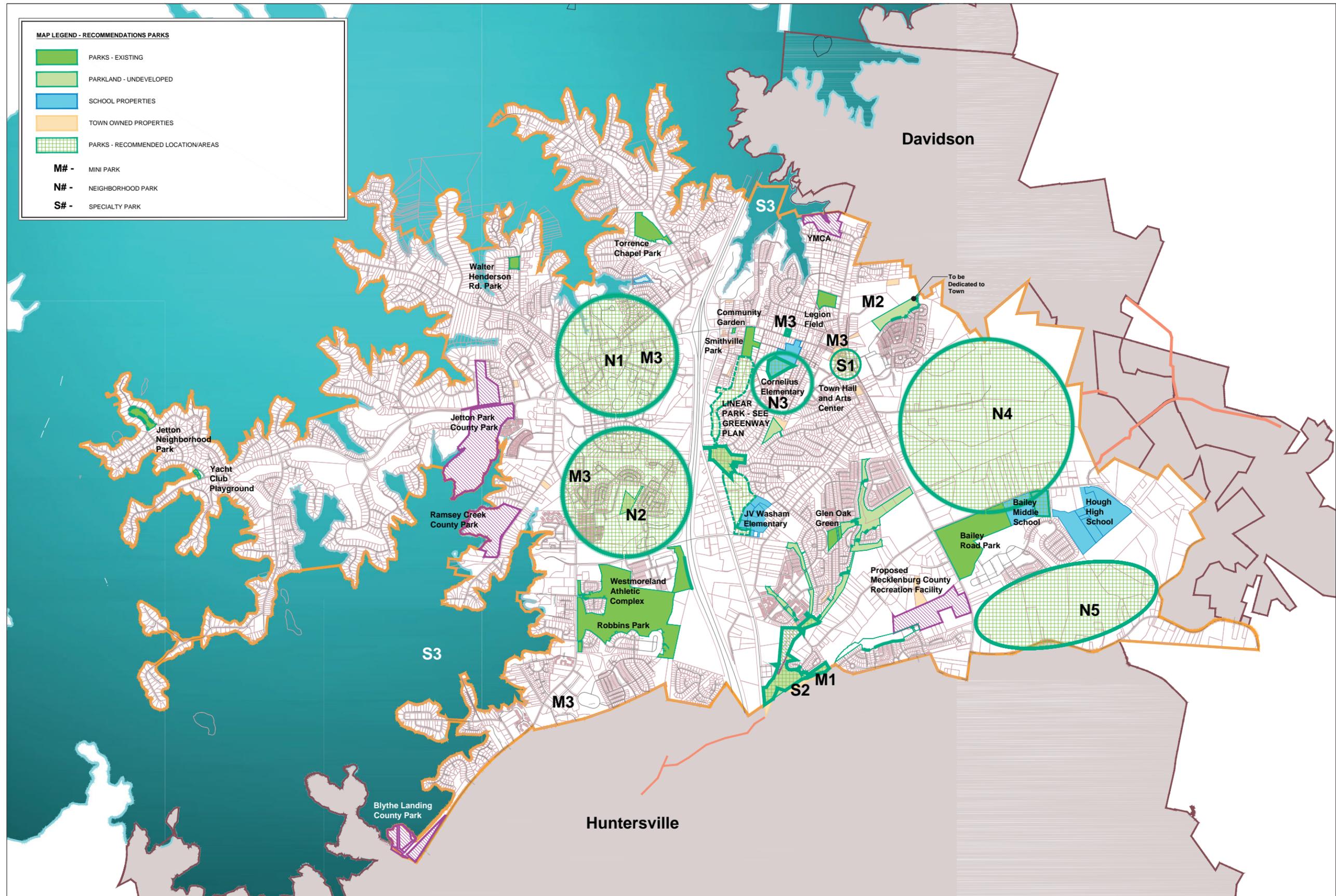
S3 – Specialty Park – Town-Owned Waterfront Park

It is recommended that the Town pursue acquiring and developing a Town-owned waterfront park. This goal was a very high priority in the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan – *Navigate Cornelius*. Due to extensive development along the shores of Lake Norman, the Town will most likely need to work with a developer looking to rehabilitate a section of shoreline. Facilities could include a boardwalk along the shoreline, small beach, fishing pier, and gathering place for special events.

MAP LEGEND - RECOMMENDATIONS PARKS

- PARKS - EXISTING
- PARKLAND - UNDEVELOPED
- SCHOOL PROPERTIES
- TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES
- PARKS - RECOMMENDED LOCATION/AREAS

M# - MINI PARK
N# - NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
S# - SPECIALTY PARK

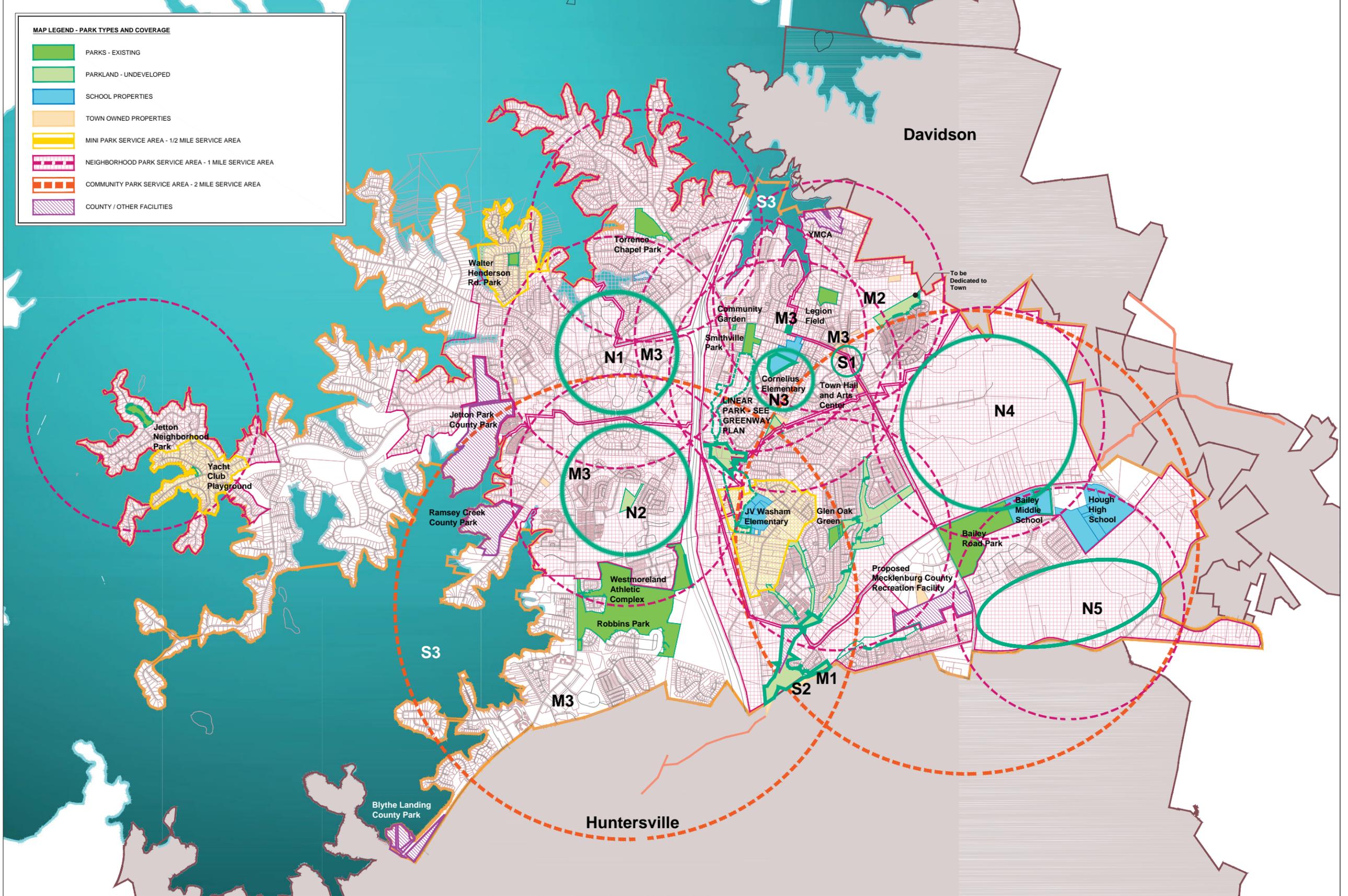


**Town of Cornelius - PARC
 Comprehensive Parks and
 Greenways Master Plan**

**Master Plan
 Recommendation - Future Parks**

May 7, 2015

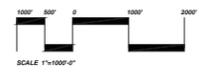




**Town of Cornelius - PARC
Comprehensive Parks and
Greenways Master Plan**

**Park Types and Coverage
Existing and Future Facilities**

May 7, 2015

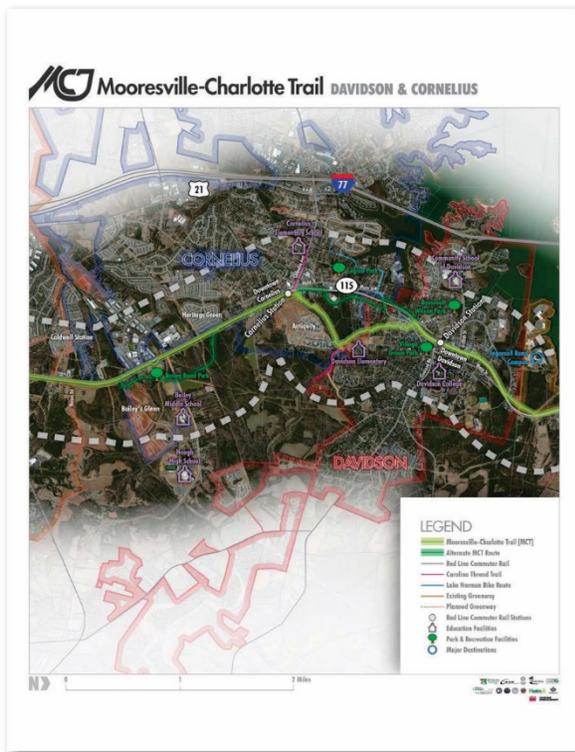




GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Greenways

The Parks and Greenways Master Plan for the Town of Cornelius focuses on creating a system of sidewalks, bikeways, shared use paths, and greenways that will link amenities and destinations with one another. These destinations include parks, businesses, schools, employment centers, neighborhoods and communities. The overall goal for greenway development is to provide a greenway, multi-use trail, sidewalk and/or bike-lane within one-half (1/2) mile of every residential or commercial property in the Town. The Parks and Greenways Master Plan, in addition to the adopted Pedestrian Plan and currently being developed Bicycle Plan, can make this goal a reality.



The Town should support the Carolina Thread Trail, Mecklenburg County, and the Towns of Huntersville and Davidson in their efforts to develop greenways, pedestrian-ways, and multi-use trails that provide connectivity to the Town's existing and proposed system. Special attention should also be paid to the proposed regional Mooresville-Charlotte Trail which will use several of the Town's greenway and pedestrian-way routes.

The Town should encourage and support agencies such as Carolina Thread Trail and Mecklenburg County to provide and develop canoe/kayak access points and launch sites for potential blueway routes along Lake Norman that may also tie to the greenway system. Blueways are navigable waterways for canoes, kayaks, and other man-powered vessels. Launch sites in various locations provide convenient access to the water for these types of activities.

Carolina Thread Trail is a regional network of over 500 miles of greenways and trails that reaches 15 counties and 2.3 million citizens. It links people, places, cities, towns, and attractions. When you see the Carolina Trail Logo it will indicate that particular greenway is a section of the Carolina Thread Trail.

The Mecklenburg County Greenway System is quickly becoming one of the finest in the nation. Greenway trails provide recreation, transportation, fitness, and economic benefits for all to enjoy. Additionally, greenways are vegetated natural buffers that improve water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding, and provide wildlife





habitat. There are currently 37 miles of developed and 150 miles of undeveloped greenways in Mecklenburg County.

The Lake Norman Bike Route will take shape in years to come as a continuous, multi-jurisdictional bicycle route that will encircle Lake Norman, segment by segment. It will connect prominent destinations, neighborhoods, and various local bicycle facilities within the surrounding area, providing a safer, useful, and attractive transportation and recreation resource for a wide range of bicyclists.

The Town of Cornelius Bicycle Master Plan is currently under development. This new plan will coordinate with the alignments and connections indicated for greenways, shared-use paths, and parks in this Master Plan.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Greenways and Shared Use Paths

- Prioritize greenway/bikeway/pedestrian segments that can create loop routes and connect both commercial and residential neighborhoods directly to parks, schools, civic facilities, work places, etc.
- Development priorities should generally follow those presented and approved as shown in the Town’s 2013 Parks and Recreation bond package. Adjustments in priorities may be necessary as unexpected opportunities arise.
- Develop a series of mini parks along West Catawba Avenue/Jetton Road extension/Catawba Avenue, from Robbins Park/Kenton Place to Town Center. These parks can be used as stopping/resting points along a newly enhanced and reinforced pedestrian/bikeway/greenway system, as well as connecting west to east. These can also be used as art/sculpture display areas.
- Create a greenway gateway program. Utilize the Town’s budding artist contingent to create artistic gateways for strategic greenway entry points. This program can dovetail with the park identity and re-branding by giving artists relative inspiration for their creations.

Existing Greenways and Under Construction

McDowell Creek Greenway Phase 1:	Existing – 1.0 mile
Caldwell Station Creek (north) Greenway:	Pending Construction – 2.5 miles

Proposed/Recommended Greenways

GW1:	Antiquity Greenway – 0.6 mile (design underway – 2015)
GW2:	South Bailey Road Greenway – 0.5 mile (design underway – 2015)
GW3:	McDowell Creek Greenway Phase 2 – 1.6 mile (design underway – 2015)
GW4:	Smithville Park to JV Washam Elementary* – 1.6 mile
GW5:	Old Cornelius to Statesville Road – 1.1 mile
GW6:	North Bailey Road Greenway– 1.5 mile
GW7:	North Bailey Road to Bailey Road Park Connector – 0.5 mile
GW8:	Glen Oak Green Park Connector – 0.1 mile
GW9:	Caldwell Station Creek (south) Greenway – 1.3 mile
GW10:	South Bailey Road Greenway Phase 2 – 1.4 mile
GW11:	Nantz Road Connector Greenway – 0.3 mile



- GW12: Victoria Bay Greenway – 1.4 mile
- GW13: Westmoreland Park Greenway – 0.7 mile
- GW14: Stratford Forest Greenway – 0.4 mile

***GW4 – Smithville Park to JV Washam Elementary School Linear Park**

Develop a linear park comprised of greenway trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, picnicking facilities, gardens, and the natural landscape. This particular park will be significantly wider than a typical greenway providing significant natural buffering from development and offer areas for the inclusion of various park amenities. Possible facilities include athletic fields, informal play meadows, formal gardens, natural landscapes, picnicking, and playgrounds. Abundant opportunities exist for environmental stewardship and interpretation of the eco-park wetlands and the Willow Pond stream restoration project. While smaller in scale, this park is envisioned to be in the mold of such famous parks as Back Bay Fens in Boston and The Long Meadow of Prospect Park in New York City.

Proposed/Recommended Shared Use Paths

- SU1: Mooresville to Charlotte Trail along Old Statesville Road from northern to southern town line – 2.4 miles
- SU2: Statesville Road from Catawba to Westmoreland Road – 1.5 mile
- SU3: Washam Potts Road from Westmoreland Road to Old Statesville Road - 1.3 mile
- SU4: Statesville Road from Westmoreland Road to southern town line – 1.2 mile
- SU5: Bailey Road from Statesville Road to Old Statesville Road – 0.7 mile
- SU6: Bailey Road flyover from McDowell Creek Greenway to Bailey Road – 1.2 mile
- SU7: West Catawba Avenue from Kenton Place to Sam Furr Road– 0.2 mile
- SU8: West Catawba Avenue to Invermere Avenue – 0.2 mile
- SU9: Northcross Drive (future) from Bailey Road flyover to Westmoreland Road – 1.1 mile
- SU10: Westmoreland Road from McDowell Creek Greenway to Washam Potts Road – 1.0 mile
- SU11: Nantz Road from Ramsey Creek Park to West Catawba Avenue – 0.4 mile
- SU12: West Catawba Avenue from Westmoreland Road Jetton Road – 1.3 mile
- SU13: Magnolia Estates Drive from West Catawba Avenue to McDowell Creek Greenway – 0.2 mile
- SU14: Jetton Road from John Conner Road to West Catawba Avenue – 1.9 mile
- SU15: Jetton Road Extension/Liverpool Parkway from Jetton Road to I-77 – 1.1 mile
- SU16: Chartown Drive from West Catawba Avenue to McDowell Creek Greenway – 1.1 mile
- SU17: Torrence Chapel Road from Torrence Chapel Park to West Catawba Avenue – 0.8 mile
- SU18: Bailey Road from William Amos Hough High School to Mayes Road – 0.8 mile

MAP LEGEND - RECOMMENDATIONS GREENWAY/PEDESTRIAN-WAY

- PARKS - EXISTING
- PARKLAND - UNDEVELOPED
- SCHOOL PROPERTIES
- TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES
- GREENWAY - EXISTING
- GREENWAY - PROJECTS UNDERWAY (DESIGN/PERMITTING/CONSTRUCTION)
- GREENWAY - FUTURE
- SHARED USE PATHS - EXISTING
- SHARED USE PATHS - PROJECTS UNDERWAY (DESIGN/PERMITTING/CONSTRUCTION)
- SHARED USE PATHS - FUTURE
- SIDEWALKS - EXISTING (RELATIVE TO GREENWAY-SHARED USE PATH LOOPS)
- SIDEWALKS - FUTURE (RELATIVE TO GREENWAY-SHARED USE PATHS)
- CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL ROUTE

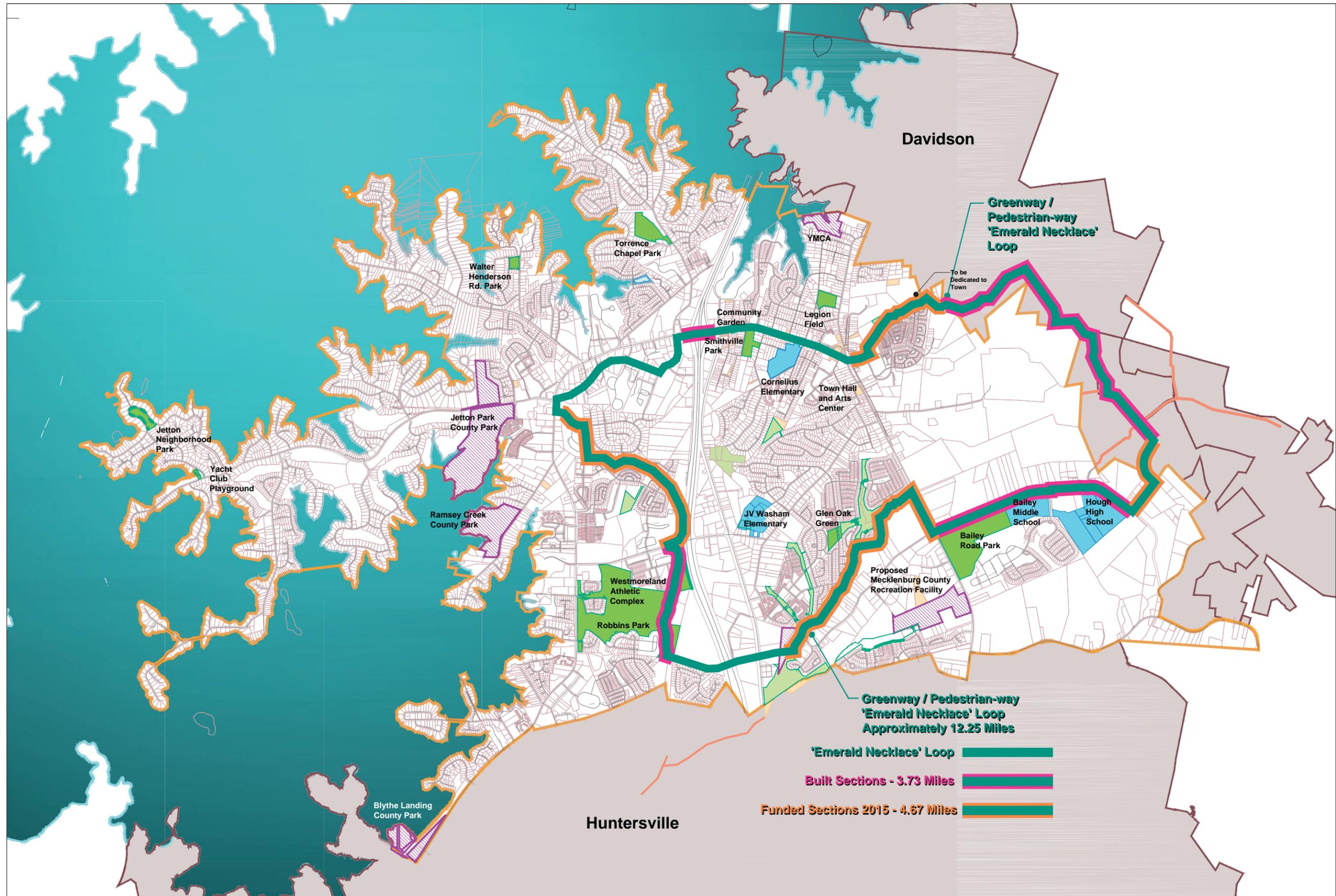


**Town of Cornelius - PARC
Comprehensive Parks and
Greenways Master Plan**

**Master Plan
Greenway and Pedestrian-way**

May 22, 2015

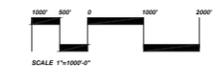




**Town of Cornelius - PARC
Comprehensive Parks and
Greenways Master Plan**

**Master Plan
'Emerald Necklace' Pedestrian Loop**

May 7, 2015





GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Parks

Redevelop and repurpose existing parks and facilities to emphasize multi-use activities. With ever-changing recreation trends, parks need to be flexible in order to prepare for the “next big thing”. Develop multipurpose fields that are able to accommodate almost any sport. Fields should be constructed as large as possible to accommodate the greatest number of activities.

Additional recommendations for existing facilities include:

- The Town should collaborate with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other schools on redevelopment opportunities for recreation facilities at existing school sites located within the Town. These opportunities are particularly evident at, and adjacent to, Cornelius and JV Washam Elementary Schools.
- Support Mecklenburg County in their effort to provide beach swimming, as well as other water-based activities, at their Lake Norman facilities.
- Develop and reinforce existing and new identities for parks that relate to its context, history, special purpose, etc. An example might be “Historic Legion Park”. These identities should also be marketed to the public.
- Work with adjacent neighborhoods and communities to determine what is important in redevelopment or repurposing.
- Develop new or updated master plans as needed for specific parks, taking into account new and emerging trends.
- Explore and pursue all opportunities for acquisition of adjacent and/or contiguous property for park expansions.
- Develop and fund current and projected staffing in order to continue to provide exceptional programming, maintenance, and customer service.
- Continue to fund park improvements to prevent a significant increase in deferred maintenance projects.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Parks

Yacht Club Mini Park

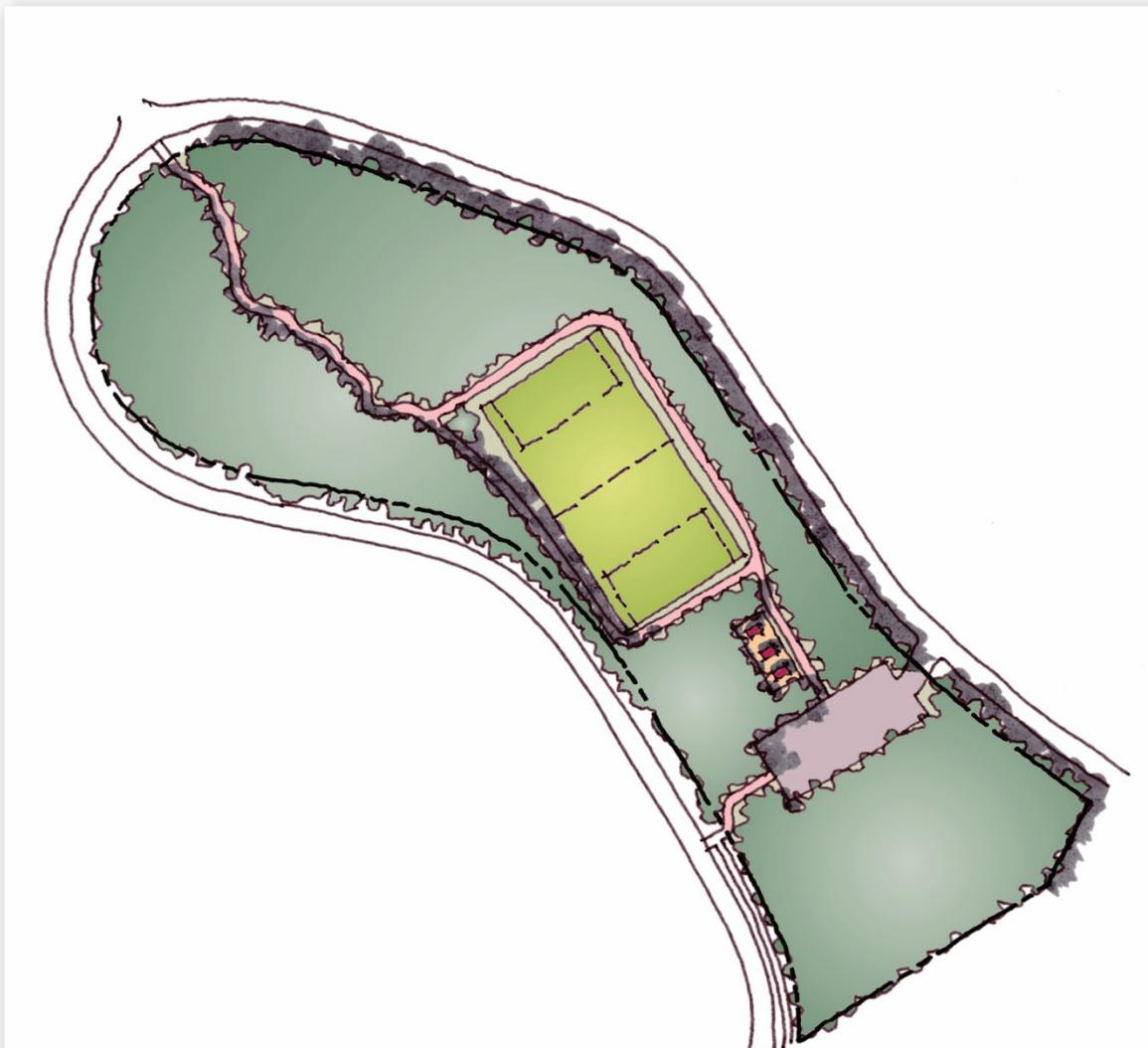
- Replace playground as needed
- Maintain sailing/water theme

Walter Henderson Mini Park

- Work with Bethel Church area or neighboring residents to determine best repurpose
- Smaller playground
- Enhance nature/wildlife experience in wooded area

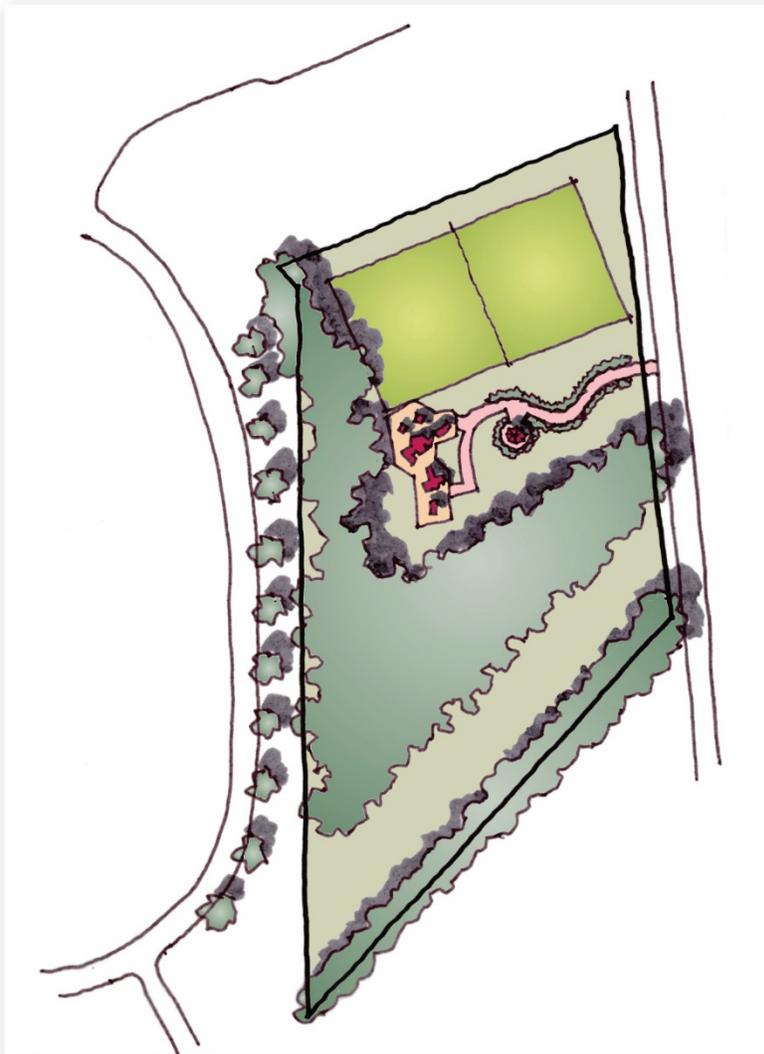
JV Washam Field Mini Park

- Explore opportunities for additional expansion as part of proposed linear park
- Connection to greenway system that connects to other parks



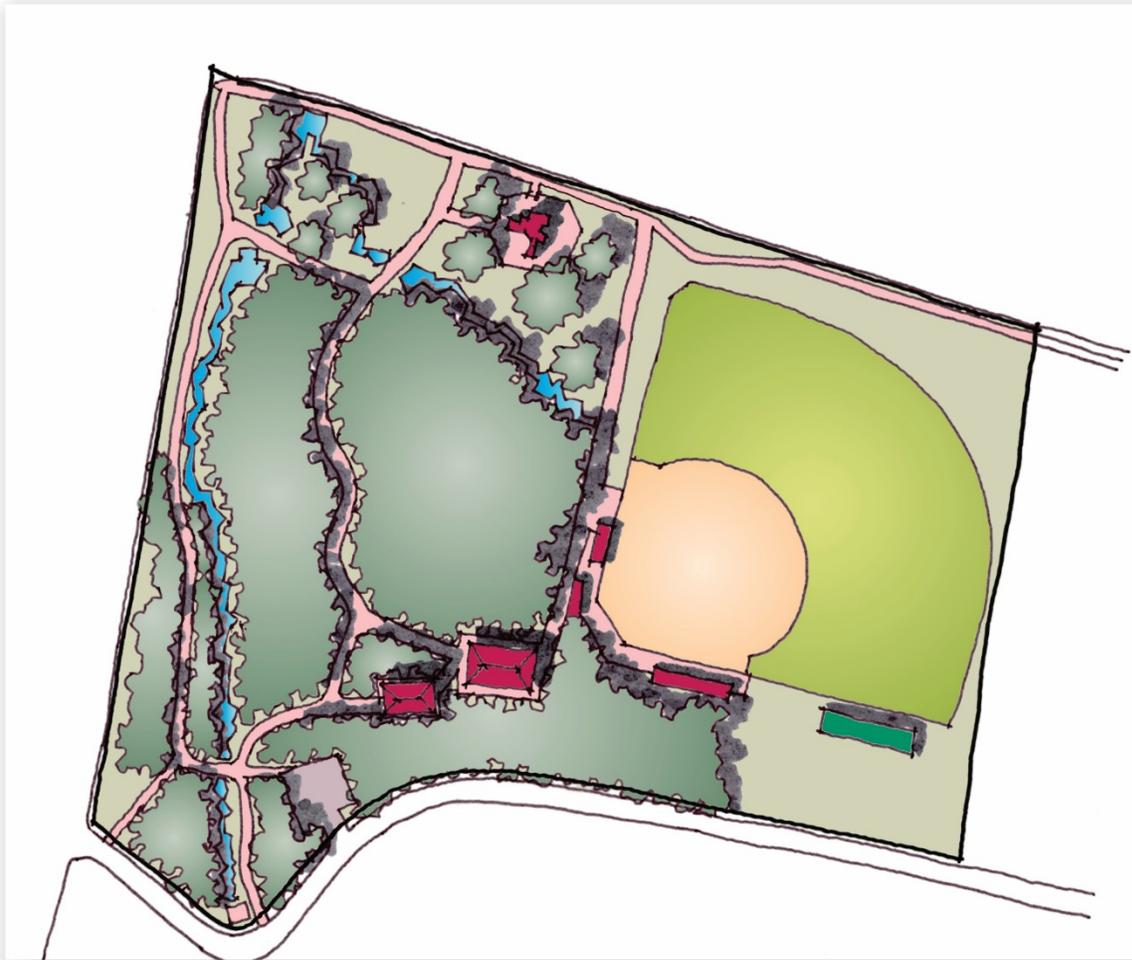
Jetton Road Neighborhood Park

- Add a playground
- Add a gazebo relative to park identity and context
- Improve wooded environment
- Increase connectivity to existing walks and roads



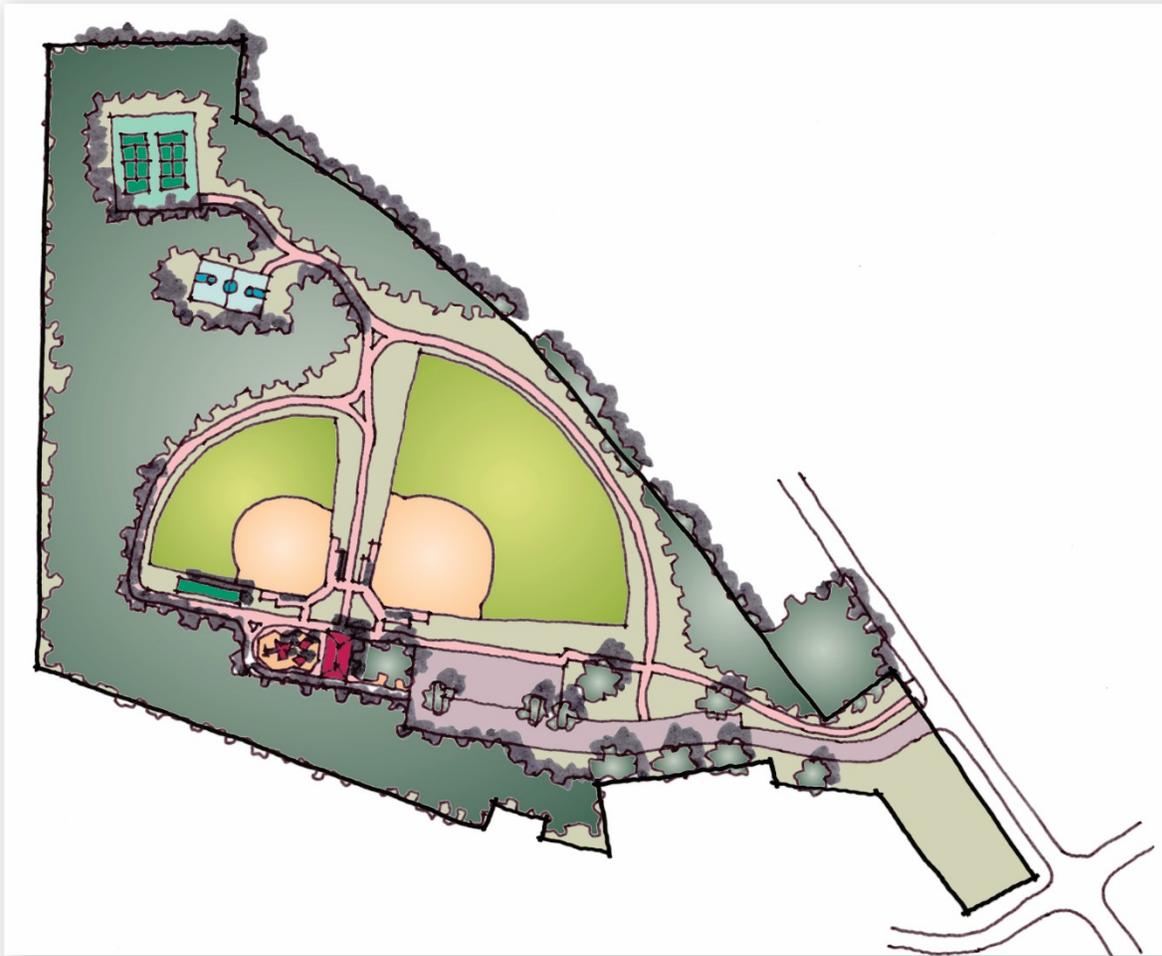
Glen Oak Green Neighborhood Park

- Work with Glenridge, Coachmans Trace, Heritage Green, and Oakhurst for repurposing
- Develop a new themed playground which could become a “Kid’s Paradise”
- Market the park as a way-station or resting stop along Caldwell Station Creek Greenway
- Improve the appearance and sense of security



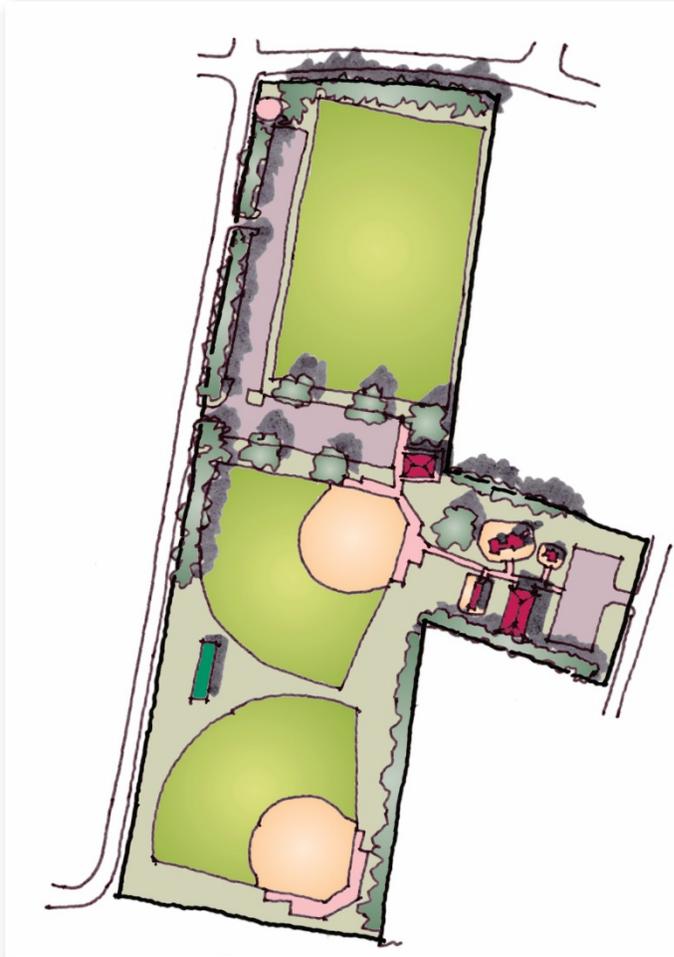
Legion Park (Neighborhood Park)

- Rebrand as “Legion Field” – historic influence
- Enhance environmental – stream reclamation, pond
- New theme playground – traditional, historic, old-timey
- Explore opportunities for additional land acquisition and expansion of facilities



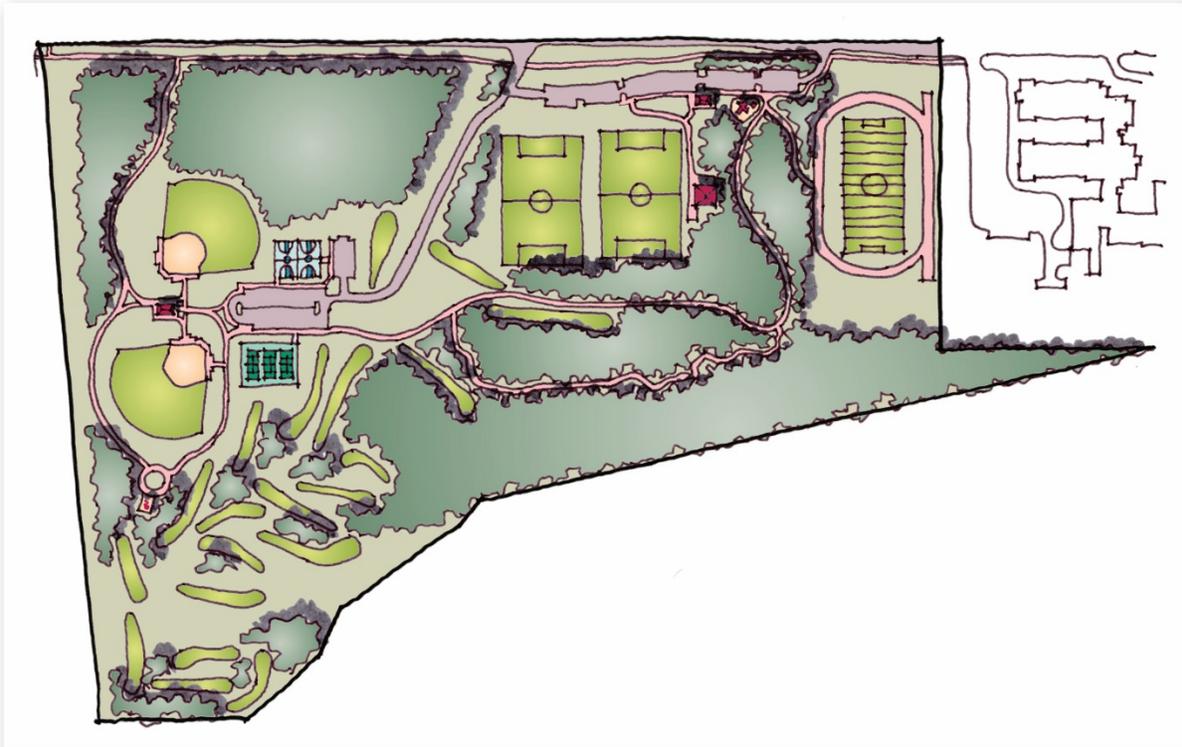
Torrence Chapel Neighborhood Park

- Expansion of tennis facilities
- Explore opportunities for additional land acquisition and expansion of facilities and more convenient parking
- New theme playground
- Improve appearance and sense of security



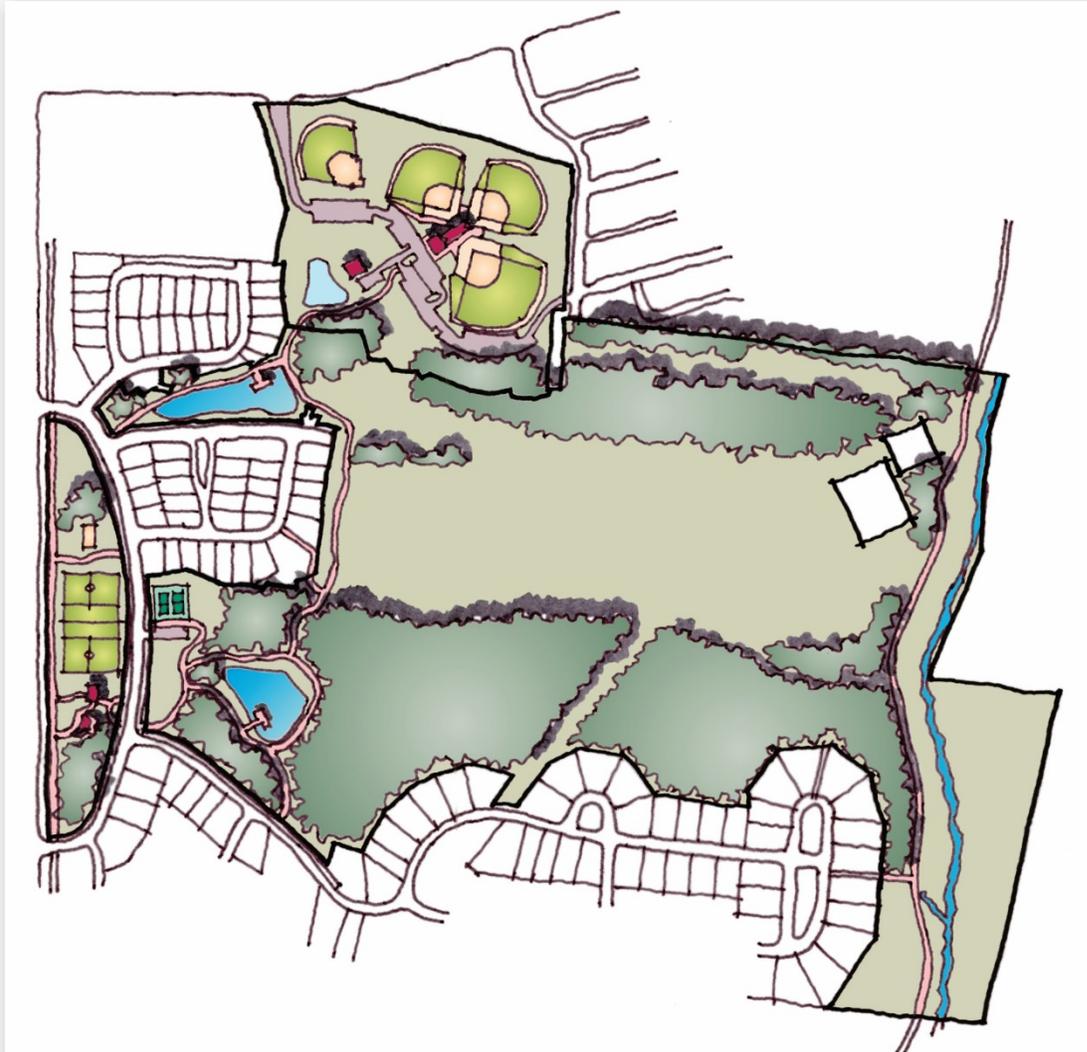
Smithville (Neighborhood) Park

- Becomes gateway to Downtown, community gathering, and the “Central Park” of Cornelius
- Open views and pedestrian access along Catawba Avenue to make more inviting and welcoming
- Explore opportunities for additional land acquisition and expansion of facilities and parking – create a linear park
- Becomes a catalyst for redevelopment of Smithville and adjacent neighborhoods close to Downtown
- Redevelop and add new facilities, which may include community-friendly elements such as splash pad, shelters, fitness, and walking paths
- Increase field activity by installing synthetic turf on the existing multipurpose field



Bailey Road (Community) Park

- The sports/athletic park – the active recreation “work-horse” park
- Explore opportunities for additional land acquisition and expansion of facilities
- Explore every opportunity to increase field activities by installing synthetic turf on multipurpose fields
- Add variety and multi-use sport/recreation elements such as court sports (tennis, pickle ball, etc.), fitness, and possible mountain bike trails.
- Expand development of football field/track with addition of stands, restrooms, etc.
- Expand both asphalt and natural trails and connect to adjacent neighborhoods



Robbins (Community) Park and Nature Preserve

- The nature/environmental park
- Brand as a passive natural park environment with a variety of activities
- Becomes the large gathering space park in a more natural environment
- Add elements such as amphitheater for special events, large open meadow-like fields, possible large pond as amenity, shelters, trails, parking, etc. – an updated Robbins Master Plan will assist in guiding the vision
- Provide naturalistic food and shelter environments for area wildlife
- Provide small and large picnic shelters



Cornelius Arts Center

Elected officials, staff, and the community provided insight on the current Cornelius Arts Center and the new center to be built as part of the 2013 Bond Referendum. Due to the evolving nature of the proposed new center, the following recommendations are preliminary in nature and will need to be assessed more thoroughly once the planning process starts in earnest.



- Multiple gallery spaces will offer visitors an extended and meaningful visit to the center's exhibitions. This expansion will also increase the center's capacity to conduct student tours that connect to core curricula.
- An interactive children's zone will be accessible during gallery tours. This area will inform and engage youth with a variety of art principals, exploratory learning opportunities, and lessons connected to each exhibition.
- Proper gallery and art storage will serve the center well as its professional exhibition program continues to expand to reach artists on the national level.
- A professional theater that seats 100-150 will offer the community opportunities to experience independent films, theater performances, and musical concerts on a monthly basis.
- An outdoor performance and gathering space will provide an area for outdoor films, concerts, and educational programs.
- Large ceramics studio will provide the center's growing community of ceramic students plenty of space to create and experience courses with professional ceramics artists.
- Several studios/classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art equipment will attract talented faculty and customers to the center for art education programs. Studios may include woodworking, jewelry making, painting, and printmaking.
- Professional studio spaces designed for an artist-in-residency program will allow artists to create in their temporary studios seven days a week. Artists will take part in exhibitions onsite and within the local parks as a part of the artist-in-residency program.
- Greenways will become a space for the community to experience art made by professionals and art created with the community.
- An elegant event space will allow the center to accommodate large parties and weddings. This initiative will bring new attendees into the center that may later engage in programming.
- Community and art studio rentals will serve the community by offering affordable access to studio space and support for their creative growth.
- A technology lab will utilize the latest technology to offer youth and adults programs in animation, website construction, Photoshop, video game creation, coding, and more.
- A gift and art supply shop will allow customers to purchase local art and supplies for their programs. A large portion of all art sales will go back to the local artists.
- Separate party rooms will allow the center to throw parties for all ages.



5 Section 5

Implementation

Introduction

The Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan relies strongly upon community input, an analysis of the current park system and demand placed upon it, the identification of user needs, the development of recreation standards, and an adherence to stated proposals and recommendations. The plan is intended to be “action-oriented” - designed to provide a framework from which the Town and the PARC Department can enhance their parks and greenways in order to meet recreation needs of both existing and future citizens.

With funding for implementation being finite, the Town needs to be strategic in nurturing partnerships, seeking grants and other funding sources, and managing available Town funds. Mutually beneficial partnerships with Mecklenburg County, Town of Davidson and Town of Huntersville can provide critical greenway linkages and other necessary park facilities, such as swim beaches and the proposed North Regional Recreation Center. Additionally, partnerships with local organizations can lead to other park improvements such as the Bailey Road Park synthetic turf fields built with the Town’s partner, the Carolina Rapids, and the Cornelius Community Garden developed and operated with the Town’s partner, the Smithville Community Coalition. The Town will actively seek park grants such as Park and Recreation Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Carolina Thread Trail. Staff will proactively submit greenway projects for North Carolina Department of Transportation funding. Town fund sources can continue to come from the annual Capital Improvement Plan process and future park bond referenda. Additionally, as Cornelius develops strategies for land use, this plan can be used as a guide to identify needs for recreational land.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the acquisition, renovation, and development of parks for the planning period was prepared with input from Town staff, PARC Commission, and public involvement. All of the proposed costs are shown in 2015 dollar values. The capital improvement costs include funds for land acquisition, site preparation, site utilities, access, and parking along with significant park improvements. The CIP also includes estimated planning and design fees.

The FY15 Capital Improvement Plan, found on pages 5-2 through 5-4, provides a comprehensive list of projects based on the numerous projects from the 2005 Parks and Greenways Master Plan and other identified needs and park improvements. Based on the recommended standards and needs identified in the 2015 Parks and Greenways Master Plan, a new comprehensive CIP that addresses these additional needs is provided on pages 5-5 and 5-6. PARC staff will integrate the two as part of the CIP process for FY17.



Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025

Section 5 – Implementation

PARC CIP FY16-21
January 2015

Project	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Grand Total
Facility and Park Development							
1 Robbins Park	\$7,000						\$7,000
2 Neighborhood Park							
3 Neighborhood Park	\$50,000						\$50,000
4 Neighborhood Park	\$500,000						\$500,000
5 Neighborhood Park	\$800,000						\$800,000
6 Synthetic Turf Field		\$760,000					\$760,000
7 Synthetic Turf Field				\$850,000			\$850,000
8 Arts Center				\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000
9 Arts Center				\$50,000			\$50,000
10 Arts Center					\$200,000		\$200,000
11 Arts Center					\$2,700,000		\$2,700,000
12 Arts Center					\$450,000		\$450,000
13 Waterfront Park						\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
14 Waterfront Park						\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
15 Multi-Pocket Park						\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
Facility and Park Development Total	\$1,357,000	\$760,000		\$1,900,000	\$3,350,000	\$7,890,000	\$15,217,000
Facility Renovation and Expansion							
1 Smithville Park	\$40,000						\$40,000
2 Torrence Chapel Park	\$20,000						\$20,000
3 Legion Park	\$20,000						\$20,000
4 Bailey Road Park	\$30,000						\$30,000
5 Bailey Road Park	\$80,000						\$80,000
6 Bailey Road Park	\$80,000						\$80,000
7 Bailey Road Park	\$80,000						\$80,000
8 Smithville	\$10,000						\$10,000
9 Torrence	\$24,000						\$24,000
10 Smithville	\$150,000						\$150,000
11 Bailey Road Park	\$555,000						\$555,000
12 Bailey Road Park	\$10,000						\$10,000
13 Smithville	\$10,000						\$10,000
14 Legion Park	\$10,000						\$10,000
15 Torrence Chapel Park	\$10,000						\$10,000
16 Bailey Road Park	\$20,000						\$20,000
17 Smithville	\$8,000						\$8,000
18 Torrence Chapel Park	\$8,000						\$8,000
19 Legion Park	\$5,000						\$5,000
20 Walter Henderson Park	\$5,000						\$5,000
21 Glen Oak Green Park	\$5,000						\$5,000
22 Jettson Road Neighborhood Park	\$5,000						\$5,000



Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025

Section 5 – Implementation

PARC CIP FY16-21
January 2015

Project		FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Grand Total
Facility Renovation and Expansion	23	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Install new lighted entry sign, stone base and landscaping	\$10,000				\$10,000
	24	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Light entrance sign, add storage room and concession stand doors to Control Link	\$10,000				\$10,000
	25	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Replace baseball field and tennis court, resurface existing tennis and basketball courts. Add benches and court caddies.	\$525,000				\$525,000
	26	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Tennis court windscreen	\$12,000				\$12,000
	27	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Infield irrigation, reclaim creek and build pond		\$115,000			\$115,000
	28	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Add shaded spectator seating and team benches at multi-purpose field		\$50,000			\$50,000
	29	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Curb and gutter extension. Landscaping		\$60,000			\$60,000
	30	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Add third lighted tennis court, resurface existing tennis and basketball courts. Add benches and court caddies.		\$300,000			\$300,000
	31	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Community Gardens - healthy living initiative		\$10,000			\$10,000
	32	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Gym Divider Curtains		\$20,000			\$20,000
	33	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Parking lot expansion and sidewalk		\$85,000			\$85,000
	34	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Add storage to Shelter #2, relocate and enlarge picnic shelter		\$105,000			\$105,000
	35	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground, install synthetic surfacing and shade structure near soccer and football fields		\$255,000			\$255,000
	36	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Infield irrigation		\$8,000			\$8,000
	37	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Community Gardens - healthy living initiative		\$10,000			\$10,000
	38	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground and install synthetic surfacing, shade		\$200,000			\$200,000
	39	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Shade for spectator seating		\$125,000			\$125,000
	40	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground and install synthetic surfacing, shade - Silo area		\$500,000			\$500,000
	41	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground and install synthetic surfacing, shade		\$250,000			\$250,000
	42	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground and install synthetic surfacing, shade		\$250,000			\$250,000
	43	Improvements to Existing Facilities	grass infield, warm-up area/fence modification		\$30,000			\$30,000
	44	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground, install synthetic surfacing, shade and repair drainage issue		\$200,000			\$200,000
	45	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Field 2 - hard surface spectator areas and reconfigure drainage		\$40,000			\$40,000
	46	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Light basketball courts on MUSCO Control-Link system		\$50,000			\$50,000
	47	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Develop small area for a dog park with water fountain				\$25,000	\$25,000
	48	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Light basketball courts on MUSCO Control-Link system				\$50,000	\$50,000
	49	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Update playground and install synthetic surfacing, shade. Add exercise area				\$200,000	\$200,000
	50	Improvements to Existing Facilities	repair parking lot cracks and top coat asphalt				\$385,000	\$385,000
	51	Improvements to Existing Facilities	repair parking lot cracks and top coat asphalt				\$180,000	\$180,000
	52	Improvements to Existing Facilities	repair trails, parking lot cracks and top coat asphalt				\$190,000	\$190,000
	53	Improvements to Existing Facilities	repave trails, landscape trail edge				\$46,000	\$46,000
	54	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Construct restrooms and grandstand at football field				\$430,000	\$430,000
	55	Improvements to Existing Facilities	French drains for the outfield				\$15,000	\$15,000



Town of Cornelius PARC Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Master Plan – 2015-2025

Section 5 – Implementation

PARC CIP FY16-21
January 2015

Project	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Grand Total
Facility Renovation and Expansion							
56 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$325,000	\$325,000
57 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$30,000	\$30,000
58 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$40,000	\$40,000
59 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$5,000	\$5,000
60 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$5,000	\$5,000
61 Improvements to Existing Facilities						\$40,000	\$40,000
Facility Renovation and Expansion Total	\$1,381,000	\$637,000	\$1,000,000	\$848,000	\$820,000	\$2,305,000	\$6,688,000
Greenway/Bikeway							
1 Antiquity/Town Center Greenway Development	\$100,000						\$100,000
2 South Bailey Road Greenway Development	\$240,000						\$240,000
3 McDowell Creek Greenway	\$300,000						\$300,000
4 South Bailey Road Greenway	\$400,000						\$400,000
5 Antiquity/Town Center Greenway	\$500,000						\$500,000
6 McDowell Creek Greenway	\$100,000						\$100,000
7 McDowell Creek Greenway	\$900,000						\$900,000
8 Coachman's Woods/Smithville Greenway	\$220,000						\$220,000
9 J.V. Washam ES/Coachman's Woods Greenway	\$135,000						\$135,000
10 Coachman's Woods/Smithville Greenway	\$70,000						\$70,000
11 J.V. Washam ES/Coachman's Woods Greenway	\$60,000						\$60,000
12 Coachman's Woods/Smithville Greenway	\$780,000						\$780,000
J.V. Washam ES/Coachman's Woods Greenway	\$650,000						\$650,000
14 Cadwell Station Creek Greenway Extension				\$425,000			\$425,000
15 South Bailey Road Greenway Phase II					\$500,000		\$500,000
16 South Bailey Road Greenway							
Greenway/Bikeway Total	\$2,285,000	\$130,000	\$1,430,000	\$425,000	\$900,000	\$2,100,000	\$7,480,000
Equipment Total	\$45,000						\$45,000
Grand Total	\$5,678,000	\$1,427,000	\$2,430,000	\$3,168,000	\$4,670,000	\$12,255,000	\$29,628,000
	\$4,507,000						Projects funded by Operations Budget and First Bond Sale
	\$1,419,000						Proposed FY16 Capital Projects
	\$5,850,000						Proposed Projects For Second Bond Sale



Capital Improvement Plan for Recommended New Park Facilities

Capital Improvement and Land Acquisition			
Future Facilities - Parks			
Land Acquisition	2015 - 2020	2020 - 2025	Total Cost
N1 – Village Center Park	\$0	\$400,000	
N2 – Westmoreland/McDowell Creek Park **	\$600,000	\$0	
N3 – Cornelius Elementary Park *	\$0	\$0	
N4 – Bailey Road North Park	\$0	\$1,000,000	
N5 – Mayes Road Park	\$0	\$1,000,000	
M1 – Poole Place Park *	\$0	\$0	
M2 – Northeast Park **	\$0	\$0	
M3 – Kenton Place to Downtown Oasis Parks ****	\$0	\$250,000	
S1 – Arts Center Urban Park ***	\$0	\$0	
S2 – Eco-Park *	\$0	\$0	
S3 – Town-owned Waterfront Park*****	\$0	\$0	
Land Acquisition - Total	\$600,000	\$2,650,000	\$3,250,000
Park Development	2015 - 2020	2020 - 2025	Total Cost
N1 – Village Center Park	\$0	\$1,500,000	
N2 – Westmoreland/McDowell Creek Park	\$1,500,000	\$0	
N3 – Cornelius Elementary Park ***	\$0	\$0	
N4 – Bailey Road North Park	\$0	\$1,500,000	
N5 – Mayes Road Park	\$0	\$1,500,000	
M1 – Poole Place Park	\$500,000	\$0	
M2 – Northeast Park	\$0	\$500,000	
M3 – Kenton Place to Downtown Oasis Parks	\$250,000	\$500,000	
S1 – Arts Center Urban Park ***	\$0	\$0	
S2 – Eco-Park	\$1,000,000	\$0	
S3 – Town-owned Waterfront Park*****	\$0	\$0	
Park Development - Total	\$3,250,000	\$5,500,000	\$8,750,000
Total Capital Improvements and Land Acquisition for Future Park Facilities			\$12,000,000
<p>Note: Land Acquisition and Development Costs are order of magnitude and for general budgeting purposes only.</p> <p>* Acquired</p> <p>** Partially acquired</p> <p>*** 2013 bond project</p> <p>**** Identified in current Capital Improvement Plan</p>			



Capital Improvement Plan for Recommended New Greenway Facilities

Capital Improvement and Land Acquisition			
Future Facilities - Greenways			
Greenway Development	2015 - 2020	2020 - 2025	Total Cost
GW1 – Antiquity Greenway ***			
GW2 – South Bailey Road Greenway ***			
GW3 – McDowell Creek Greenway Phase 2 ***			
GW4 – Smithville Park to JV Washam Elem. ****			
GW5 – Old Cornelius to Statesville Road	\$0	\$1,100,000	
GW6 – North Bailey Road Greenway	\$0	\$1,500,000	
GW7 – N. Bailey Rd to Bailey Road Park Connector	\$0	\$500,000	
GW8 – Glen Oak Green Park Connector ****			
GW9 – Caldwell Station Crk (south)Greenway ****			
GW10 – South Bailey Road Greenway 2 ****			
GW11 – Nantz Road Connector Greenway	\$0	\$300,000	
GW12 –Victoria Bay Greenway	\$0	\$1,400,000	
GW13 – Westmoreland Park Greenway	\$0	\$700,000	
GW14 – Stratford Forest Greenway	\$0	\$400,000	
Greenway Development - Total	\$0	\$5,900,000	\$5,900,000
Total Capital Improvements for Future Greenway Facilities			\$5,900,000
<p>Note: Greenway development costs include land acquisition and are in order of magnitude and for general budgeting purposes only.</p>			

*** 2013 bond project

**** Identified in current Capital Improvement Plan



PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

New facilities will require additional funding for maintenance, programming, and staffing. As new facilities come online, consideration must be given to the operational and maintenance costs as part of the annual budget process. A detailed operating budget is not included in this plan.

KEY FUNDING SOURCES

Park and Recreation Trust Fund Grant

The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) on July 16, 1994, to fund improvements in the state's park system, to fund grants for local governments, and to increase the public's access to the state's beaches. The Parks and Recreation Authority, a nine-member appointed board, was also created to allocate funds from PARTF to the state parks and to the grants program for local governments. PARTF is the primary source of funding to build and renovate facilities in the state parks as well as to buy land for new and existing parks. The PARTF program also provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments. Recipients use the grants to acquire land and/or to develop parks and recreational projects that serve the general public.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. The LWCF Act requires that all property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance be maintained perpetually in public recreation use. This ensures that tens of thousands of outdoor sites, at every level of government and in almost every county of the United States, are recognized as continuing legacies that must remain available, not just for today's citizens but for all future generations of Americans.

General Obligation Bonds

General obligation bonds are a widely used approach for acquiring and developing new parks, greenways, and recreation facilities. The Town of Cornelius held a successful bond referendum in November 2013, resulting in \$5.25 million in bonds approved for park development and improvement. General obligation bonds should be considered in the future in order to fulfill the needs identified in this Master Plan.

ADDITIONAL METHODS FOR ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

In order to meet the future park needs of Cornelius, staff must be creative in acquisition and development of new facilities.

Fee Simple Purchase

The outright purchase is perhaps the most widely used method of obtaining parkland. However, this method is the most difficult to reconcile with limited public resources. Fee



simple purchase has the advantage of being relatively simple to administer and to explain to the general public in terms of justifying a particular public expenditure.

First Right of Purchase

This approach to acquiring parkland eliminates the need for fixing the selling price of a parcel of land yet alerts the Town of any impending sale listing, which might disrupt the parkland acquisition goals. The Town would be notified of a sale listing and would have the right to purchase the property before it is sold to the party requesting the purchase.

Land Trust

The role and responsibility of a land trust is to acquire parkland and open space while maintaining a well-balanced system of park resources representing outstanding ecological, scenic, recreational, and historical features. A land trust is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation made up of key knowledgeable leaders in the area who represent a cross section of recreation, historic, conservation, preservation, land development, and environment interests. Their goals and responsibilities are to work with landowners to acquire parkland for current and future generations. The individuals appointed to the land trust must have a good knowledge of land acquisition methods and tools to entice land owners to sell, donate, provide easements, life estates, irrevocable trusts, or a combination of all. This includes seeking out a good land acquisition attorney who is trained in these areas to provide the most efficient and effective processes to achieve the balance of types of land to meet the goals of the Comprehensive Master Plan.

Local Gifts

A significant and yet often untapped source of providing funds for acquisition and development of local park projects is through a well-organized local gifts program. The pursuit of land, money, construction funds, or donated labor can have a meaningful impact on the development of a well-rounded system. The most frequently used type of gift involves the giving of land (through a full gift of agreed upon below market value sale) to be used for a park. The timing of such a donation can correspond with a PARTF grant application, thereby providing all or a significant portion of the local matching requirement associated with this fund. A familiar use of gifts involves donated labor or materials, which become part of an improvement project and help to reduce project costs. The value of the services or materials can also be used to match non-local grant funds. When not tied into a grant, such donations (land, labor, or materials) still can play an important role in reducing the demand for local capital expenditures.

Some cities have developed a gift catalog as a tool for emphasizing an organized gifts program. Such a publication should explain the role and importance of the gifts program, describe its advantages, define the tax advantages that may occur to the donor, and identify various gifts (land, labor, play equipment, materials, trees, etc.) that are needed to meet local program needs. The gifts catalog should be prepared in a format that can be distributed effectively and inexpensively and should employ a clear statement of needs and typical costs associated with various gifts, and be made readily available to the public.

To aid this type of gift program, a strategy for contacting potential donors (individuals, businesses, foundations, service clubs, etc.) should be developed. An important part of this strategy should include contacting the local Bar Association, trust departments of lending institutions, and the Probate Court. Communicating with these groups regularly will make



them aware of the potential for individuals to include a gift to the PARC Department as part of their tax and estate planning.

Life Estate

A life estate is a deferred gift. Under this plan, a donor retains use of his land during his lifetime and relinquishes title to such land upon his death. In return for this gift, the owner is usually relieved of the property tax burden on the donated land.

Easement

The most common type of less-than-fee interest in land is an easement. Since property ownership may be envisioned as a bundle of rights, it is possible for the Town to purchase any one or several of these rights. An easement seeks either to compensate the landholder for the right to use his land in some manner or to compensate him for the loss of one of his privileges to use the land.

Zoning/Subdivision Regulations/Mandatory Dedication

The Cornelius Land Development Code contains requirements for mandatory open space dedication (common and public) and the code makes provisions for the land to be reviewed by the PARC Department and PARC Commission prior to acceptance. The regulations also stipulate a formula for making payment to the Town in lieu of dedicating property. A variation of the mandatory land dedication is payment of a fee in lieu of land dedication. The impact fee payment for dwelling unit construction goes directly into a special fund earmarked for park acquisition and development. Benefits of this method for park development in newly evolving neighborhoods include locating facilities within close proximity of residents, increasing quality of life within the community, preservation of open space, and cost savings for park development.



A. Appendix A – Parks & Greenway Master Plan Survey

Dear Cornelius Resident,

The Town of Cornelius is updating the Comprehensive Parks and Greenway Master Plan and we would like your insights on how we can better serve your needs. We are partnering with Graduate Candidates from UNC Charlotte’s MPA Program to complete this master plan update. Your input is especially important because we will be using your guidance to set the direction of the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Department for the next ten years. Note that this survey focuses on **facilities** and not program delivery.

Attached is a brief questionnaire that will provide us with your thoughts for our future facility planning needs. The first section includes questions on demographics. We ask that you complete this section so we can be sure that we are reflecting the needs of all of our citizens. These responses will be kept confidential. Individual survey responses will NOT be published.

We anticipate the survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. **We ask that you please complete the survey by October 15.** We have posted the survey online for convenience but you may also complete the enclosed paper survey. If possible please complete the online survey as this will expedite our data collection process.

Please know that our planning is dependent on your opinion!

Thank you for responding by Tuesday, October 15.

To complete the survey online please visit: <http://www.surveymshare.com/t/Town-of-Cornelius>

Please enter this unique reference **code** to access the survey:

Otherwise, please send the attached survey back using the enclosed self-addressed and stamped envelope.

If you have any questions, please call us at 704-892-6031 x160. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Troy Fitzsimmons, Director
Cornelius PARC Department

Please reference the following definitions as you complete the survey:

- Public Park - A tract of land dedicated and maintained for the purposes of pleasure, exercise, amusement, or ornament; a place to which the public at large may resort to for recreation, air, and light.
- Public Recreation Center - A building that is open to the public where meetings are held, sports are played, and there are activities and classes available.
- Greenway/Bikeway/Trail - Corridors of open space managed for recreation and conservation purposes. A pathway or multi-use trail designed for or allowing bicycle use and/or walking/jogging/running.
- Open Space - Land and/or water area with its surface open to the sky, consciously acquired or publicly regulated to serve conservation and urban shaping function in addition to providing recreational opportunities.



Town of Cornelius PARC Parks & Greenways Master Plan Survey 2014

1) Including yourself, how many adults live in your household?

2) How many children (17 years of age or younger) live in your household?

3) What is your age?

4) I identify my gender as:

- Male
- Female

5) I identify my race as:

- White
- Black
- Latino
- Other

6) What is your total household income?

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000-\$49,000
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000 or more



7) Please enter your address including street number and street name
(strict confidentiality practices will be maintained!)

Street Number (ex. 123): _____

Street Name (ex. Jones Street): _____



Please reference the following definitions as you complete the survey:

- Public Park - A tract of land dedicated and maintained for the purposes of pleasure, exercise, amusement, or ornament; a place to which the public at large may resort to for recreation, air, and natural light.
- Public Recreation Center - A building that is open to the public where meetings are held, sports are played, and there are activities and classes available.
- Greenway/Bikeway/Trail - Corridors of open space managed for recreation and conservation purposes. A pathway or multi-use trail designed for or allowing bicycle use and/or walking/jogging/running.
- Open Space - Land and/or water area with its surface open to the sky, consciously acquired or publicly regulated to serve conservation and urban shaping function in addition to providing recreational opportunities.

1) Have you ever visited any of the following Town of Cornelius facilities?

Public Parks

Please select one: Yes, No, Don't Know

Public Recreation Centers

Please select one: Yes, No, Don't Know

Cornelius Arts Center

Please select one: Yes, No, Don't Know

Greenways/Bikeways/Trails

Please select one: Yes, No, Don't Know

2) In the past year, please indicate the number of times in a given month you (or a member of your household) visited the following *park facilities*.



Bailey Road Park (11536 Bailey Road) _____

Blythe Landing (15901 NC Highway 73) County _____

Glen Oak Green Park (18905 Coachmans Trace) _____

Jetton Park (19000 Jetton Road) County _____

Jetton Road Neighborhood Park (16000 Jetton Road) _____

Legion Park (21214 Legion Street) _____

Ramsey Creek Park (18441 Nantz Road) County _____

Robbins Park (17738 West Catawba Avenue) _____

Smithville Park (19710 South Ferry Street) _____

Torrence Chapel Park (21309 Torrence Chapel Road) _____

Walter Henderson Park (20214 Tailwind Lane) _____

Westmoreland Athletic Complex (8430 Westmoreland Road) _____

Yacht Club Playground Park (18625 Harbor Light Boulevard) _____

3) In the past year, please indicate the *number of times* in a given month you (or a member of your household) visited the following *recreation centers*.

Bailey Road Recreation Center (11900 Bailey Road) _____

JV Washam Recreation Center (9611 Westmoreland Road) _____

4) In the past year, please indicate the *number of times* in a given month you (or a member of your household) visited the following *arts center*.

Cornelius Arts Center (19725 Oak Street Unit 1) _____

5) In the past year, please indicate the *number of times* in a given month you (or a member of your household) visited the following *greenways, bikeways and trails*.



- Bailey Road Park Trails _____
- Jetton Mini Park Trails _____
- Jetton Park Trails (County) _____
- Legion Park Trails _____
- McDowell Creek Greenway (County) _____
- Robbins Park Trails _____
- Torrence Chapel Park Trails _____

6) On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates low satisfaction and 5 indicates high satisfaction, how *satisfied* are you with the Town of Cornelius *park facilities*.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Cleanliness	<input type="radio"/>					
Physical Condition	<input type="radio"/>					
Amenities	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking	<input type="radio"/>					
Personal Safety	<input type="radio"/>					
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall Satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>					

7) On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates low satisfaction and 5 indicates high satisfaction, how *satisfied* are you with the Town of Cornelius *recreation facilities*.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Cleanliness	<input type="radio"/>					



Physical Condition	<input type="radio"/>					
Amenities	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking	<input type="radio"/>					
Personal Safety	<input type="radio"/>					
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall Satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>					

8) On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates low satisfaction and 5 indicates high satisfaction, how satisfied are you with the Town of Cornelius arts center.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Cleanliness	<input type="radio"/>					
Physical Condition	<input type="radio"/>					
Amenities	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking	<input type="radio"/>					
Personal Safety	<input type="radio"/>					
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall Satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>					

9) On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates low satisfaction and 5 indicates high satisfaction, how satisfied are you with the Town of Cornelius greenway(s), bikeway(s) and trail(s).

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't
--	---	---	---	---	---	-------



Cleanliness	<input type="radio"/>	Know <input type="radio"/>				
Physical Condition	<input type="radio"/>					
Amenities	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking	<input type="radio"/>					
Personal Safety	<input type="radio"/>					
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall Satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>					

10) Are you satisfied with the distance the following facilities are from your residence?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Public Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-			
Public Recreation Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-			
Greenways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-			

11) Do you see a need for the following additional parks & recreational facilities in the Town of Cornelius?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Public Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-			
Public Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Centers

-
Greenways/Bikeways/Trails

-
Lakefront Access

-

12) Please identify all of the activities you currently participate in at parks and facilities in the Town of Cornelius.

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Biking (Mountain biking, Tour, or BMX)
- Boating (Motor, sail, kayak, canoe)
- Community gardening
- Crafts, such as pottery, woodworking, or sewing
- Disc golf (often referred to as “Frisbee” golf)
- Fitness programs such as aerobics, weightlifting or yoga
- Football
- Lacrosse
- Musical concerts or events
- Nature or environmental programs
- Performing arts (drama, musical instruments, dance)
- Picnic areas
- Roller skating, rollerblading, or skateboarding
- Senior citizen programs
- Soccer
- Softball
- Special events, such as festivals or community celebrations
- Special needs programs
- Summer camps, such as full day, sports, or arts
- Tennis
- Track and field
- Visual Arts (painting, photography, drawing, or other)
- Volleyball
- Walking/hiking/running
- None



- Don't Know
- Other: _____

13) Please identify your TOP FIVE preferences for additional development in the Town of Cornelius.

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Biking (Mountain biking, Tour, or BMX)
- Boating (Motor, sail, kayak, canoe)
- Community gardening
- Crafts, such as pottery, woodworking, or sewing
- Disc golf (often referred to as "Frisbee" golf)
- Dog park
- Fishing
- Fitness programs such as aerobics, weightlifting or yoga
- Football
- Lacrosse
- Musical concerts or events
- Nature or environmental programs
- Open space
- Performing arts (drama, musical instruments, dance)
- Picnic areas
- Roller skating, rollerblading, or skateboarding
- Senior citizen programs
- Soccer
- Softball
- Special events, such as festivals or community celebrations
- Special needs programs
- Sprayground (interactive water-based play area)
- Summer camps, such as full day, sports, or arts
- Swimming (lake or pool)
- Tennis
- Track and field
- Visual Arts (painting, photography, drawing, or other)
- Volleyball
- Walking/hiking/running
- None
- Don't Know
- Other: _____



14) Please identify your TOP TWO preferences for additional bicycle and pedestrian facility development in the Town of Cornelius

- Paved Paths, Trails, Greenways
- Unpaved Paths, Trails, Greenways
- Water/Stream Related Trails
- Sidewalks
- Bicycle Lanes
- None
- Don't Know
- Other: _____

15) For what reasons would you likely use a greenway/bikeway/trail system? (please check all that apply)

- Recreation
- Commute to Work/School
- No Car/ No Other Choice
- Fitness
- Trips to Grocery Store/Downtown
- Visit Friends/Relatives
- Enjoy the Environment
- Learn About Natural/Historic Resources
- Don't Know
- None
- Other: _____

16) Please rate the importance of each of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know
Preserving Open Space	<input type="radio"/>				
- Parks to Quality of Life	<input type="radio"/>				
- Preserving Cultural Heritage	<input type="radio"/>				



-
Passive Park Facilities (trails, picnic areas, bird watch, etc.)

-
Active Park Facilities (athletic fields, courts, tracks, etc.)

-

17) To what extent would you support some level of additional taxes for improvements to parks and recreation facilities?

- Very Supportive
- Somewhat Supportive
- Not Sure
- Not Supportive

18) If you have any idea(s) for ways in which *Park & Recreation Facilities* should be funded in the Town of Cornelius (alternative to additional taxes) please list below:



B. Appendix B – Survey Methodology and Results

Source: *Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Facilities Needs Assessment 2013 – UNC Charlotte*
Gerald G. Fox Master of Public Administration

Detailed Survey Methodology

The target population for this study was Cornelius adult residents over the age of eighteen. Mecklenburg County provided a copy of the most current addresses for the Town. From this sample frame of approximately 10,000 households, using a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS), a random number of addresses were drawn to form a list of 805 households stratified by the location of the household; east versus west of Interstate 77 (I-77). Voter registration records provided by Mecklenburg County were used to stratify the list of addresses by age group. The voter records also helped confirm representativeness in terms of race. Since surveys generally require 95% confidence with +/- 5% accuracy, the goal was to obtain 370 completed surveys that were representative of the Town.

In order to create the resident survey, the Project Team obtained input from various Town staff, principally the PARC Department. An 18-question paper survey was divided into five sections: usage (3 questions), satisfaction (2 questions), preference (3 questions), justification (4 questions), and demographic information (6 questions). The questions included both closed- and open-ended response formats. In addition to the paper survey, this mailing contained a link to the online version of the survey. Residents were asked to complete the option most convenient for them. See Appendix A for a copy of the survey instrument.

Response rates were extremely low following the initial two-week survey period. From the original sample of 805 households, a random sample of 463 households that had not yet responded were selected to receive follow-up telephone calls. Despite these calls, response rates remained low. For those residents that could not be reached by telephone, flyers were left at their residences in a second attempt to improve survey response rates.

Survey responses improved marginally, but additional responses from African-American and Latino households were needed to make the sample representative. As a result, 90 new African American and Latino households were sampled from the original sample of 805 households. This over-sample was combined with the remaining households that had not responded from the original mailing. These combined efforts resulted in 118 valid responses for a response rate of 13%. A maximum sampling error of +/- 9% at a 95% confidence level was obtained for the total survey efforts. The goal of obtaining 370 responses was not met, however representativeness in terms of East/West of I-77, household type, and median income was achieved. Even with an error rate of 9% the findings can still be evaluated because the error rate is within an acceptable range.



Survey Results

TOWN OF CORNELIUS 2015 PARKS AND GREENWAY MASTER PLAN – RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS – TOTAL 95% confidence rate with a +/-9% error

DEMOGRAPHICS

Surveys Returned	Total residents represented	Person per household
118	301	2.75

In what area of Cornelius do respondents reside?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
East of Interstate 77	38	32.2
West of Interstate 77	75	63.6
No response	5	4.2

Including yourself, how many adults live in your household?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
1	24	20.3
2	77	65.3
3	6	5.1
4	5	4.2
5	2	1.7
No response	4	3.4

How many children (17 years of age or younger) live in your household?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
0	73	61.9
1	18	15.3
2	16	13.6



3	7	5.9
4	1	0.8
No response	3	2.5

What is your age group?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
18-26	4	3.4
27-37	15	12.7
38-41	11	9.3
42-51	39	33.1
52-62	20	16.9
63-69	22	18.6
>69	7	5.9

You identify your gender as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Male	46	39.0
Female	67	56.8
No response	5	4.2

You identify your race as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
White	110	93.2
Black	1	0.8
Latino	2	1.7
Other	1	0.8
No response	4	3.4



What is your total household income group?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
< \$25,000	4	3.4
\$25,000-\$49,999	15	12.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	24	20.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	12	10.2
> 99,999	47	39.8
No response	16	13.6

USAGE

Have you ever visited Public Park facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	112	94.9
No	2	1.7
Don't know	2	1.7
No response	2	1.7

Have you ever visited Public Recreation Center facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	67	56.8
No	32	27.1
Don't know	12	10.2
No response	7	5.9

Have you ever visited the Public Arts Center facility?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	41	34.7



No	68	57.6
Don't know	3	2.5
No response	6	5.1

Have you ever visited Public Greenway/Bikeway/Trail facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	90	76.3
No	19	16.1
Don't know	5	4.2
No response	4	3.4

You identify your current participation in activities as:

Response	# of respondents who selected this type of activity	% of total respondents who selected this type of activity
Biking (mountain biking, tour, BMX)	32	27.1
Basketball	16	13.6
Boating (motor, sail, kayak, canoe)	16	13.6
Baseball	13	11.0
Music (concerts, events)	7	5.9
None	6	5.1
Walking/hiking/running	5	4.2
Picnic areas	4	3.4
Crafts (pottery, woodworking, sewing)	3	2.5



Fitness programs (aerobics, weightlifting, yoga)	3	2.5
No response	3	2.5
Nature/Environmental programs	2	1.7
Soccer	2	1.7
Tennis	2	1.7
Disc golf (Frisbee golf)	1	0.8

SATISFACTION

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates slight satisfaction and 5 indicates extreme satisfaction, what is your overall satisfaction with the Public Park facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Extremely satisfied	58	49.2
Very satisfied	44	37.3
Moderately satisfied	4	3.4
Slightly satisfied	1	0.8
Not at all satisfied	0	0.0
Don't know	7	5.9
No response	4	3.4

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates slight satisfaction and 5 indicates extreme satisfaction, what is your overall satisfaction with the Public Recreation facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Extremely satisfied	27	22.9
Very satisfied	26	22.0
Moderately satisfied	4	3.4



Slightly satisfied	1	0.8
Not at all satisfied	0	0.0
Don't know	41	34.7
No response	19	16.1

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates slight satisfaction and 5 indicates extreme satisfaction, what is your overall satisfaction with the Public Arts Center facility?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Extremely satisfied	18	15.3
Very satisfied	15	12.7
Moderately satisfied	3	2.5
Slightly satisfied	1	0.8
Not at all satisfied	0	0.0
Don't know	61	51.7
No response	20	16.9

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates slight satisfaction and 5 indicates extreme satisfaction, what is your overall satisfaction with the Public Greenway/Bikeway/Trail facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Extremely satisfied	42	35.6
Very satisfied	31	26.3
Moderately satisfied	6	5.1
Slightly satisfied	2	1.7
Not at all satisfied	1	0.8
Don't know	23	19.5
No response	13	11.0



NEED

Do you see a need for additional Public Park facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	20	16.9
No	67	56.8
Don't know	19	16.1
No response	12	10.2

Do you see a need for additional Public Recreation facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	23	19.5
No	61	51.7
Don't know	23	19.5
No response	11	9.3

Do you see a need for additional Public Greenway/Bikeway/Trail facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	70	59.3
No	32	27.1
Don't know	11	9.3
No response	5	4.2

Do you see a need for additional Public Lakefront Access facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Yes	68	57.6
No	27	22.9
Don't know	16	13.6



No response 7 5.9

You identify your facility preferences for additional development as:

Response	# of respondents who selected this type of activity	% of total respondents who selected this type of activity
Biking (mountain biking, tour, BMX)	27	22.9
Dog park	15	12.7
Boating (motor, sail, kayak, canoe)	12	10.2
Community gardening	11	9.3
Crafts (pottery, woodworking, sewing)	8	6.8
Fitness programs (aerobics, weightlifting, yoga)	8	6.8
Basketball	7	5.9
Music (concerts or events)	7	5.9
None	5	4.2
Don't know	3	2.5
Fishing	3	2.5
Baseball	2	1.7
Disc golf (Frisbee golf)	1	0.8
Lacrosse	1	0.8
Nature/Environmental programs	1	0.8



Open space	1	0.8
Picnic areas	1	0.8
Soccer	1	0.8
Softball	1	0.8
Sprayground	1	0.8
Swimming (lake, pool)	1	0.8
Walking/Hiking/Running	1	0.8

You identify your bicycle and pedestrian facility preferences for additional development as:

Response	# of respondents who selected this type of activity	% of total respondents who selected this type of activity
Paved paths, trails, greenways	66	55.9
Unpaved paths, trails, greenways	19	16.1
None	9	7.6
Sidewalks	7	5.9
Water/stream related trails	7	5.9
Don't know	5	4.2
Bicycle lanes	4	3.4
Other	1	0.8

IMPORTANCE

You rate the importance on Preserving Open Space as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very important	75	63.6
Important	26	22.0



Somewhat important	11	9.3
Not important	2	1.7
Don't know	3	2.5
No response	1	0.8

You rate the importance on Parks to Quality of Life as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very important	42	35.6
Important	29	24.6
Somewhat important	31	26.3
Not important	12	10.2
Don't know	2	1.7
No response	2	1.7

You rate the importance on Preserving Cultural Heritage as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very important	27	22.9
Important	36	30.5
Somewhat important	37	31.4
Not important	9	7.6
Don't know	6	5.1
No response	3	2.5

You rate the importance on Passive Park facilities (trails, picnic areas, bird watching, etc.) as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very important	53	44.9



Important	42	35.6
Somewhat important	16	13.6
Not important	4	3.4
Don't know	2	1.7
No response	1	0.8

You rate the importance on Active Park facilities (athletic fields, courts, tracks, etc.) as:

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very important	42	35.6
Important	29	24.6
Somewhat important	31	26.3
Not important	12	10.2
Don't know	2	1.7
No response	2	1.7

JUSTIFICATION

To what extent would you support some level of additional taxes for improvements to parks and recreational facilities?

Response	# of respondents	% of total respondents
Very supportive	20	16.9
Somewhat supportive	39	33.1
Not supportive	20	16.9
Not sure	37	31.4
No response	2	1.7



Table 3.1.1.0 Demographics of Survey Respondents

	n	Percentage
Overall	118	100%
East	38	34
West	75	66
No Children	73	63
Children	42	37
Age Group 18-41	30	25
Age Group 42-62	59	50
Age Group > 62	29	25
Income < \$25,000	4	4
Income \$25,000-\$49,999	15	15
Income \$50,000-\$74,999	24	24
Income \$75,000-\$99,999	12	12
Income >\$99,999	47	46



Table 3.1.1.1 Facility Usage

	Parks	Greenways, Bikeways, and Trails	Recreation Center	Arts Center
Overall	98% n = 114	83% n = 109	68% n = 99	38% n = 109
East	97	80	77	41
West	100	84	64	36
No Children	97	75	58	33
Children	100	95	83	46
Age Group 18-41	100	96	81	30
Age Group 42-62	98	80	69	48
Age Group > 62	96	72	48	22



Table 3.1.1.2 Park Visits Per Month

	Jetton		Ramsey Creek	Bailey Road	Robbins	Torrence Chapel	Blythe Landing
	Main	Neighborhood					
Overall	4.75 n = 115	0.84 n = 113	2.05 n = 115	1.36 n = 115	1.2 n = 115	1.11 n = 115	0.72 n = 115
East	3.11	0.67	1.55	1.58	0.71	0.63	0.58
West	5.78	0.97	2.33	1.29	1.48	1.43	0.7
No Children	5.29	1.03	1.83	0.57	0.88	0.46	0.56
Children	3.69	0.51	2.45	2.74	1.76	2.26	1.02
Age Group 18-41	4.5	1.52	3.17	2.27	2.13	1.43	0.93
Age Group 42-62	4.38	0.54	2.03	1.31	0.97	1.4	0.66
Age Group >62	5.82	0.74	0.85	0.44	0.67	0.15	0.63



Table 3.1.1.2 Continued

	Westmoreland Athletic Complex	Yacht Club Playground	Smithville	Walter Henderson	Glen Oak Green	Legion
Overall	0.43 n = 115	0.4 n = 115	0.37 n = 115	0.27 n = 115	0.22 n = 115	0.17 n = 115
East	0.58	0.03	0.26	0	0.32	0.34
West	0.37	0.62	0.45	0.43	0.18	0.08
No Children	0.17	0.53	0.08	0.42	0.06	0.14
Children	0.88	0.19	0.88	0.02	0.5	0.21
Age Group 18-41	1.17	0.17	0.23	0.13	0.3	0.1
Age Group 42-62	0.21	0.69	0.55	0.47	0.28	0.26
Age Group >62	0.07	0.04	0.15	0	0	0.04



Table 3.1.1.3 Greenways, Bikeways, and Trails Visits Per Month

	Jetton		Robbins Park	McDowell Creek	Torrence Chapel Park	Bailey Road Park	Legion Park
	Main	Mini					
Overall	3.10 n = 115	1.01 n = 113	0.87 n = 115	0.74 n = 115	0.72 n = 115	0.57 n = 115	0.10 n = 114
East	1.61	0.44	0.29	0.71	0.11	0.82	0.16
West	3.96	1.34	1.22	0.80	1.08	0.45	0.07
No Children	3.50	1.18	0.67	0.82	0.29	0.46	0.08
Children	2.24	0.73	1.21	0.62	1.48	0.79	0.12
Age Group 18-41	2.87	2.48	2.03	1.37	0.80	1.07	0.00
Age Group 42-62	2.66	0.51	0.60	0.45	0.98	0.45	0.19
Age Group >62	4.30	0.48	0.15	0.67	0.07	0.30	0.00



Table 3.1.1.4 Recreation Center Visits Per Month

	Bailey Road	JV Washam
Overall	0.39 n = 114	0.18 n = 114
East	0.70	0.32
West	0.25	0.12
No Children	0.17	0.07
Children	0.78	0.39
Age Group 18-41	0.69	0.28
Age Group 42-62	0.38	0.22
Age Group >62	0.07	0.00



Table 3.1.1.5 Art Center Visits Per Month

	Arts Center
Overall	0.42 n = 115
East	0.66
West	0.30
No Children	0.44
Children	0.38
18-41	0.20
42-62	0.50
>62	0.48



Table 3.1.1.6 Household Selection of Current Activities

	Walking Hiking Running	Biking (Mountain Tour BMX)	Picnic Areas	Boating (Motor Sail Kayak Canoe)	Music (Concerts Events)	Special Events (Festivals Celebrations)	Tennis
Overall	81% n = 115	47% n = 115	47% n = 115	42% n = 115	42% n = 115	39% n = 115	26% n = 115
East	76	43	46	22	41	32	27
West	85	51	49	52	41	43	27
No Children	79	33	44	37	36	36	20
Children	83	71	52	50	52	45	38
Age Group 18-41	83	63	70	50	50	33	40
Age Group 42-62	84	53	44	42	39	42	23
Age Group >62	71	18	29	32	39	39	18



Table 3.1.1.6 Continued

	Fitness (Aerobics, Weightlifting Yoga)	Basketball	Nature or Environment	Summer Camps (Full Day Sports Crafts Arts)	Performing Arts (Drama Musical Instruments Dance)	Soccer
Overall	20% n = 115	18% n = 115	17% n = 115	16% n = 115	14% n = 115	14% n = 115
East	22	14	24	8	22	14
West	21	22	12	19	10	15
No Children	21	13	16	0	16	4
Children	19	29	19	43	12	29
Age Group 18-41	23	33	30	17	7	27
Age Group 42-62	23	18	14	23	18	12
Age Group >62	11	4	7	0	14	4



Table 3.1.1.6 Continued

	Baseball	Disc Golf	Softball	Rollerskating Rollerblading Skateboarding	Crafts (Pottery Woodworking Sewing)	Visual Arts (Painting Photography Drawing)	Other
Overall	11% n = 115	11% n = 115	11% n = 115	11% n = 115	10% n = 115	10% n = 115	9% n = 115
East	13	11	16	14	11	11	14
West	11	12	10	11	8	10	7
No Children	6	6	7	10	6	13	9
Children	21	21	19	14	17	2	10
Age Group 18-41	27	27	20	17	3	7	20
Age Group 42-62	9	9	12	12	16	9	5
Age Group >62	0	0	0	4	4	14	4



Table 3.1.2.0 Satisfaction with Parks

	Overall	Cleanliness	Personal Safety	Access	Physical Condition	Parking	Amenities
Overall	95% n = 107	94% n = 106	93% n = 107	92% n = 103	92% n = 106	87% n = 107	78% n = 102
East	91	85	91	91	79	73	75
West	97	99	93	94	97	94	78
No Children	92	94	91	89	89	87	75
Children	100	95	95	100	95	90	83
Age Group 18-41	90	93	89	93	90	86	79
Age Group 42-62	96	93	93	92	95	91	76
Age Group >62	100	100	96	91	86	79	80



Table 3.1.2.1 Satisfaction with Greenways, Bikeways, and Trails

	Cleanliness	Access	Overall	Physical Condition	Personal Safety	Amenities	Parking
Overall	91% n = 81	89% n = 78	89% n = 82	85% n = 82	80% n = 79	77% n = 77	77% n = 77
East	83	82	79	83	67	65	65
West	94	91	93	85	85	82	80
No Children	86	85	86	82	72	73	70
Children	97	91	91	91	88	82	83
Age Group 18-41	84	88	88	88	72	76	78
Age Group 42-62	95	87	90	85	84	78	76
Age Group >62	94	93	89	83	81	73	75



Table 3.1.2.2 Satisfaction with Recreation Centers

	Access	Cleanliness	Overall	Personal Safety	Parking	Physical Condition	Amenities
Overall	91% n = 56	91% n = 57	91% n = 58	86% n = 57	84% n = 56	83% n = 58	80% n = 54
East	86	78	87	83	83	78	71
West	94	100	94	88	84	85	84
No Children	83	84	84	77	73	69	73
Children	100	100	100	96	96	100	88
Age Group 18-41	94	88	89	82	94	78	77
Age Group 42-62	86	93	90	87	80	90	80
Age Group > 62	100	90	100	90	78	70	86



Table 3.1.2.3 Satisfaction with Art Centers

	Overall	Cleanliness	Personal Safety	Access	Parking	Physical Condition	Amenities
Overall	89% n = 37	87% n = 39	85% n = 39	78% n = 36	76% n = 38	74% n = 39	70% n = 37
East	79	75	81	77	73	69	64
West	96	96	86	77	77	77	73
No Children	84	76	76	68	75	71	70
Children	94	100	94	88	77	77	69
Age Group 18-41	100	100	100	91	82	73	82
Age Group 42-62	80	82	82	74	67	68	60
Age Group > 62	100	83	67	67	100	100	83



Table 3.1.2.4 Satisfaction with Facility Distance from Residence

	Parks	Recreation Centers	Greenways Bikeways Trails
Overall	97% n = 111	91% n = 86	81% n = 102
East	91	92	81
West	100	91	82
No Children	97	92	82
Children	98	88	80
Age Group 18-41	100	95	82
Age Group 42-62	96	91	78
Age Group > 62	96	85	88



Table 3.1.3.0 Need for Additional Facilities

	Lakefront Access	Greenways Bikeways Trails	Recreation Centers	Parks
Overall	72% n = 95	69% n = 102	27% n = 84	23% n = 87
East	73	68	42	39
West	71	71	20	17
No Children	67	59	30	26
Children	76	83	24	18
Age Group 18-41	72	80	26	24
Age Group 42-62	69	74	29	26
Age Group > 62	76	41	26	15



Table 3.1.3.1 Facility Need for Activities

	Walking Hiking Running	Dog Park	Music (Concerts Events)	Fitness (Aerobics, Weightlifting Yoga)	Swimming (Lake Pool)	Biking (Mountain Tour BMX)	Open Space
Overall	45% n = 116	33% n = 116	30% n = 116	29% n = 116	28% n = 116	27% n = 116	27% n = 116
East	41	41	27	35	22	27	16
West	49	30	30	26	32	28	34
No Children	47	35	31	37	25	18	30
Children	43	26	31	14	29	43	24
Age Group 18-41	37	43	27	27	20	33	27
Age Group 42-62	50	31	28	28	31	35	28
Age Group > 62	43	25	39	36	29	4	25



Table 3.1.3.1 Continued

	Special Events (Festivals Celebrations)	Boating (Motor Sail Kayak Canoe)	Fishing	Picnic Areas	Performing Arts (Drama Musical Instruments Dance)	Nature or Environment	Senior Citizen Programs
Overall	18% n = 116	17% n = 116	16% n = 116	16% n = 116	15% n = 116	13% n = 116	12% n = 116
East	24	22	19	22	24	19	8
West	14	16	15	14	7	11	11
No Children	21	16	14	18	18	13	16
Children	14	21	17	12	10	14	2
Age Group 18-41	30	20	23	10	7	20	0
Age Group 42-62	12	21	10	17	14	10	2
Age Group > 62	18	7	18	18	25	11	46



Table 3.1.3.1 Continued

	Community Gardening	Sprayground	Tennis	Crafts (Pottery Woodworking Sewing)	Basketball	Soccer
Overall	11% n = 116	10% n = 116	10% n = 116	8% n = 116	7% n = 116	6% n = 116
East	3	14	11	11	3	8
West	16	8	10	7	10	5
No Children	13	3	9	9	6	6
Children	7	24	12	7	10	7
Age Group 18-41	3	20	10	3	13	10
Age Group 42-62	14	10	10	5	7	5
Age Group > 62	14	0	11	18	0	4



Table 3.1.3.1 Continued

	Summer Camps (Full Day Sports Crafts Arts)	Volleyball	Disc Golf	Rollerskating Rollerblading Skateboarding	Softball	None
Overall	5% n = 116	5% n = 116	4% n = 116	4% n = 116	4% n = 116	3% n = 116
East	5	5	3	5	5	0
West	5	5	5	4	4	4
No Children	3	6	3	4	1	4
Children	7	5	5	2	10	2
Age Group 18-41	10	10	7	3	10	0
Age Group 42-62	2	5	3	5	2	3
Age Group > 62	7	0	4	4	4	7



Table 3.1.3.1 Continued

	Visual Arts (Painting Photography Drawing)	Baseball	Lacrosse	Other	Special Needs Programs	Football	Track and Field
Overall	3% n = 116	2% n = 116	2% n = 116	2% n = 116	2% n = 116	1% n = 116	0% n = 116
East	3	3	0	3	3	3	0
West	1	1	3	1	1	0	0
No Children	1	1	0	3	0	1	0
Children	5	2	5	0	5	0	0
Age Group 18-41	10	3	3	0	0	0	0
Age Group 42-62	0	2	2	2	3	0	0
Age Group > 62	0	0	0	4	0	4	0



Table 3.1.3.3 Percentage of Household's Citing their Reasons for Greenway

	Fitness	Recreation	Enjoy the Environment	Trips to Grocery Store/Retail Shops	Learn about Natural/Historic Resources	Visit Friends / Relatives	Commuter to Work/School	None	No car/ No Other Choice	Other
Overall	76% n = 113	75% n = 113	67% n = 113	33% n = 113	21% n = 113	18% n = 113	11% n = 113	6% n = 113	4% n = 113	4% n = 113
East	69	74	60	34	23	17	14	6	0	3
West	82	77	72	34	22	19	10	7	5	5
No Children	75	66	69	31	15	15	12	9	2	6
Children	76	91	64	38	29	21	10	2	7	2
Age Group 18-41	83	93	83	31	38	28	17	0	7	7
Age Group 42-62	79	77	61	44	16	18	12	5	4	0
Age Group >62	63	52	63	11	15	7	0	15	0	11



Table 3.1.4.0 Percentage of "Very Important" Responses on Various Park Features

	Preserving Open Space	Parks as a Quality of Life	Passive Park Facilities	Active Park Facilities	Preserving Cultural Heritage
Overall	66% n = 114	58% n = 115	46% n = 115	37% n = 114	25% n = 109
East	75	56	50	36	33
West	64	60	46	36	22
No Children	68	57	54	28	23
Children	62	57	33	52	25
Age Group 18-41	57	60	43	50	17
Age Group 42-62	69	57	53	40	24
Age Group > 62	69	59	33	15	36



Table 3.1.5.0 Percentage of "Very to Somewhat Supportive" Households on a Tax

	Taxes
Overall	51% n = 116
East	53
West	49
No Children	47
Children	57
Age Group 18-41	52
Age Group 42-62	53
Age Group > 62	45



C. Appendix C – Stakeholder Interviews and Results

Source: *Comprehensive Parks and Greenways Facilities Needs Assessment 2013 – UNC Charlotte*
 Gerald G. Fox Master of Public Administration

Key Stakeholders

Community Stakeholders				
Elected Officials	PARC Commission	Planning Board	Town Staff	Mecklenburg County Staff
Lynette D. Rinker (Mayor)	Del Arrendale (Chair)	Brian Simmons (Chair)	Anthony Roberts (Town Manager)	Chirs Hunter (Park and Recreation Manager, North Park Region)
Chuck Travis (Mayor Pro-Tem)	Dan Kelly	Hardy McConnell (Vice Chair)	Andrew Grant (Assistant Town Manager)	W. Lee Jones (Director of Capital Planning & Alliance Development Services Division)
David Gilroy	Karen Tovar	Cheryl Crawford	Troy Fitzsimmons (Director- PARC)	
Jeff Hare	Katie Robinson	Richard Brolin	John Dekemper (Assistant Director- PARC)	
John Bradford	Kenyon Stanley	Scott Reynolds	Wayne Herron	
Bruce Trimbur	Mary Wilson		Jason Pauling	
	Robert McCloskey		Jackie Huffman	
	Ted Duncan			
	Travis Dancy			



Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Basic Information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Questions:

1. Please describe your use of parks and recreational facilities in the Town of Cornelius?
2. How do you view the current state of the local parks and recreation offerings (facilities, greenways, trails, bikeways, and open space)?
3. What does the Town of Cornelius do especially well in terms of park facilities, recreation centers, greenways, trails, and open space?
4. What could the Town of Cornelius improve upon in terms of park facilities, recreation centers, greenways, trails, and open space?
5. What are some current unmet needs?
6. What do you think are the future needs (next 10 years) of the local parks and recreation offerings (park facilities, recreation centers, greenways, trails, bikeways, and open space) in the Town of Cornelius?
7. How feasible do you think it is to achieve the needs of the Town of Cornelius in regards to the park facilities, recreation centers, greenways, trails, and open space in the next ten years?
8. What is your vision for the Town of Cornelius and its parks and recreation offerings?
9. What do you think the Town can do to meet that vision?
10. How should this vision be funded?
11. Since Cornelius is a municipality within Mecklenburg County, should the County provide parks and recreation facilities and programs to Town residents? How?
12. Should Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools provide parks and recreation facilities and programs to Town residents? How?
13. Should the Town of Cornelius partner with the neighboring towns of Huntersville and Davidson to provide parks and recreation facilities and programs to Town residents? How?
14. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us?



Stakeholder Interview Response Data

	Responses	Total	Percentage
Personal Usage			
Recreational Usage	22	36	0.61
Professional/Work	5	36	0.14
Programming: Events	8	36	0.22
Other	1	36	0.03
Doing Well			
Diversity of Programming	17	37	0.46
Maintenance and Appearance	9	37	0.24
Facilities	7	37	0.19
Other	4	37	0.11
Improvements			
Marketing/Advertising	5	33	0.15
Improve Existing Facilities	9	33	0.27
Expanding Greenways	8	33	0.24
Other	11	33	0.33
Future Needs			
Indoor Facility	7	43	0.16
Senior Programming	3	43	0.07
New Parks	5	43	0.12
Extended Greenways	9	43	0.21
Land Banking	4	43	0.09



Improve Existing Facilities	6	43	0.14
Other	9	43	0.21

Feasibility is Likely If			
Funding/Support	13	21	0.62
Marketing	2	21	0.10
Maximizing Usage	2	21	0.10
Other	4	21	0.19
How to Fund			
Taxes	7	39	0.18
Grants	9	39	0.23
Bonds	12	39	0.31
Partnerships	7	39	0.18
Other	4	39	0.10
County Partnership			
Support	22	23	0.96
Against	1	23	0.04
Joint Use- CMS			
Support	20	20	1.00
Against	0	20	0.00
Partnership w/Huntersville & Davidson			
Support	22	23	0.96
Against	1	23	0.04



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